

Closer to home, he has served on the boards of directors for Boys and Girls Town of Missouri, the Regional Commerce and Growth Association, St. Louis Sports Commission, St. Charles Public Schools, St. Charles Police and Fire Board, Crimestoppers, Mid America Theater, St. Charles County Horse Racing Commission, Daniel Boone District Chairman, Boy Scouts of America and the Eagle Board of Review, YMCA and United Services Blue Ribbon Committee.

He received the Boy Scouts' highest honor, the Silver Beaver Award in 1989, Channel 5's [KSDK] Volunteer Board of Governors Jefferson Award in 1993, the YMCA's highest leadership award and Youth in Need honored him as its first recipient of their Youth Leadership Award. For this lifetime of service, I rise today to recognize and salute William H. Weber, St. Charles Chamber of Commerce 1996 Citizen of the Year. His volunteer work has been a shining example to me as well as all Missourians.

HONORING THE POTTERS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data is undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Donna and Ralph Potter of Kansas City, MO, who on Sunday, January 5, 1997, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Donna and Ralph's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

LOUIS J. AMABILI

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, today I would like to say something about a hero. The distinguished historian Stephen E. Ambrose says that we need to teach our children about heroes. It is by understanding the contributions of great men and women that our youth set standards of achievement for themselves. Common heroes provide a sense of unity and inspire us to aim a little higher than we did the day before.

This week in Delaware, an outstanding man is being recognized for his more than 50 years of service to community, State, and Nation. His name is Louis J. Amabili. He's a loving husband, a devoted father, an attentive grandfather, and fearless firefighter. He's a man who, for half a century, has risked his life to protect the lives and property of others.

Louis is my friend, and I am honored to count him among my friends. He is a member of the Hockessin Fire Company and the founding Director of the Delaware State Fire School. For 32 years, he served as director of that school, leading it to its current pre-eminent position as one of the leading fire training facilities in the United States.

During his tenure, the Delaware State Fire School not only built its facility in Dover, but established training centers in Sussex and New Castle Counties, providing fire training centers within 30 minutes of every fire company in Delaware.

In additions to these many successes, Louis Amabili also served as president of the New Castle Volunteers Firemen's Association, the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association, and the International Association of Fire Service Instructors. Richard Nixon appointed him to the Fire Prevention and Control Commission, and Delaware Governor Pete DuPont recognized him with the "Order of the First State."

Mr. President, Louis Amabili is one of the most well-recognized fire service leaders in America. He served on the Board of Directors of the National Fire Protection Association, and chaired the Fire Officers Professional Qualifications Standards Committee for more than a decade.

Louis was a member of the International Fire Service Training Association and received their highest honor for his role in fire service training. He chaired the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations and helped establish the National Fire Service Professional Qualifications System.

He serves as a member of the board of directors of the Congressional Fire Services Institute—which I have the honor of co-chairing—and he has received that institute's highest honor, the CFSI Fire Service Person of the Year Award.

On this occasion, as Louis Amabili retires from a distinguished career, it is my privilege to recognize his years of selfless service, the lives he has touched, the lives he has taught, and the lives he has saved. I want to express my gratitude to his wonderful wife, Carmen, to his son Louis Jr., and to his daughter, Janice, and I want the record to show without question that we do, indeed, still live in a time of heroes. Quite often these valiant men and women live right next door.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, children's health care coverage needs to be a priority in this Congress. We need to be committed to providing access to affordable coverage and care to all working families in America. We also need to provide coverage for uninsured pregnant women, in order to ensure that children get a healthy start in life. All children should have access

to services that provide for their basic health care needs such as immunization, preventive services, acute care, and dental care services, regardless of whether they live in rural or urban areas.

Employers are rapidly cutting health care coverage for children of their employees. When a family earning \$16,000 each year is required to pay over 10 percent and sometimes as much as one-third of their income to purchase health insurance for their children, they are forced to make very difficult choices. They must choose between providing their children with basic needs such as food and shelter, and paying for health insurance.

Health care coverage for children is an investment in the future. Children with undiagnosed or untreated health problems may have difficulty learning in school. A child with poor vision that has not been diagnosed or treated may be unable to see the blackboard. A child who is in pain from preventable tooth decay may not be able to eat an adequate diet, and the pain may make it difficult for the child to concentrate. A child with asthma who has poor access to care may spend many hours in an emergency department and many days in the hospital for treatment of problems that could have been prevented. This occurs at a significant cost not only in terms of dollars, but also in terms of lost opportunities to attend school, and loss of work time and income for the child's parents. These situations can be prevented with adequate health care coverage and access for children.

Children in rural areas are especially vulnerable, as there are fewer services available in these areas, and some needed services are located at significant distances from their homes. In addition, these children often live in homes where their parents work for small employers, who are unable to offer dependent coverage at a low cost.

Several States have demonstrated the cost savings available by providing assistance to working families. My home State, Minnesota, operates its own program that helps families buy private health insurance. Ninety-thousand people are covered, including 50,000 children. Over the years, more than 41,000 families have used MinnesotaCare to leave or stay off welfare, saving the taxpayers \$26 million per year.

It is essential that we address this issue and provide low- and middle-income families with the option to purchase affordable private insurance coverage for their children. These families must be provided with the means to purchase this coverage in a timely manner, so that they do not have to delay the purchase of coverage for their children.

We need to build on successful private, State, and Federal efforts to help working families afford to provide health coverage for their children. Providing coverage for children through

age 18 and pregnant women is the next logical step in incremental health care reform. It is sound policy and makes economic sense. It will ensure that all children in America have a healthy start in life.

S. 10, THE VIOLENT AND REPEAT OFFENDER ACT OF 1997

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, earlier today Senator HATCH introduced S. 10, the Violent and Repeat Offender Act of 1997. Senators LOTT, DOMENICI, SESSIONS, and I worked with him in developing the bill. While not perfect, the bill does take the initial steps in dealing with the epidemic of violent juvenile crime sweeping the Nation.

Mr. President, the face of crime in America is indeed changing. Throughout our history, one thing has been clear: government's first responsibility is to keep the citizenry safe. John Jay wrote in *The Federalist*, No. 3, "Among the many objects to which a wise and free people find it necessary to direct their attention, that of providing for their safety seems to be first."

The murderers, robbers, rapists, and drug dealers of yesteryear were typically adults. Now they are typically juveniles. As the age of these criminal predators becomes younger and younger with each passing year, so does the age of their victims.

Last Wednesday afternoon, 12-year-old Darryl Dayan Hall was abducted at gunpoint from the Southeast Washington area by three teenagers of a gang known as the Simple City Crew. This is the same gang that opened gunfire at a crowded community swimming pool in June 1993, wounding six children. This past Saturday, police found Darryl's frozen body. He had been shot once in the back of the head and at least once in the body.

The three teenagers who are now charged with Darryl's murder have had numerous prior brushes with the law. One of Darryl's assailants was charged as a juvenile with possession of PCP in 1995 and then was released—as is too often the case—promising not to run afoul of the law again. Another of Darryl's assailants was, and is, on probation following his juvenile conviction last spring for possession of PCP with intent to distribute. Darryl's third assailant was charged as a juvenile just last month with carrying a deadly weapon.

Mr. President, from 1984 to 1994, the number of juveniles murdered in this country increased 82 percent. In 1994, one of every five juveniles murdered was killed by another juvenile. The rate at which juveniles 14 to 17 years old were arrested for murder grew by 22 percent from 1990 to 1994 and the problem is going to get worse, much worse.

Congress over the last three decades has established 131 separate Federal programs—administered by 16 different departments and agencies—to serve delinquent and at-risk youth, according to a report issued by GAO last March.

Conservative estimates of Federal appropriations used for these at-risk and delinquent youth programs was more than \$4 billion in fiscal year 1995.

Despite this ongoing massive expenditure, the Federal Government has failed to meet its responsibility of providing public safety in this arena because it has not focused on holding juveniles accountable for their violent crimes. We now have a new category of offenders that requires a different, tougher approach. In short, we have criminals in our midst—young criminals—not juvenile pranksters and truants.

The juvenile offenders of today will become the career criminals of tomorrow, if government continues to fail to recognize that America has an acute social illness that cannot be cured solely with money spent on social programs. This legislation introduced today takes a common sense approach in dealing with the current epidemic of juvenile violence. It would help States make urban, suburban, and rural communities safe once again.

The bill would provide \$2.5 billion over 5 years in new incentive grants for States to enact accountability-based reforms in their juvenile justice systems. This legislation would authorize funding for various programs, including efforts aimed at trying our most violent juveniles as adults; establishing the ability of States to collect juvenile criminal records, fingerprints, and photographs, and to share such criminal histories and information within a State, with other States, and with the Federal Government; and establishing Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program [SHOCAP]. Religious organizations would also be permitted to participate in the rehabilitative programs included in the bill.

Mr. President, serious, violent, and repeat juvenile offenders must be held responsible for their crimes. Today we are living with a juvenile justice system that was created around the time of the silent film. We are living with a juvenile justice system that reprimands the crime victim for being at the wrong place at the wrong time, and then turns around and hugs the juvenile terrorist, whispering ever so softly into his ear, "Don't worry, the State will cure you."

The juvenile justice system's primary goal today is to treat and rehabilitate the juvenile offender. Such a system can handle runaways, truants, and other status offenders; but it is ill-equipped to deal with those who commit serious and violent juvenile crimes repeatedly.

The criminal justice system can emphasize to adult criminals that acts have real consequences. The purpose of the criminal justice system is to punish, that is, to hold defendants accountable.

This legislation would provide financial assistance to States to help them reform their juvenile justice system to

get the message to juveniles that their acts have real consequences to them as well. States will be eligible to receive Federal funds to help provide for the adult prosecution—as a matter of law or prosecutorial discretion—of juveniles 14 or older who commit violent crimes such as murder, forcible rape, armed robbery, and assault with a deadly weapon or offenses involving controlled substances or involving the possession of a firearm or a destructive device.

Mr. President, punishing dangerous juveniles as adults is an effective tool in fighting violent juvenile crime. For example, in Jacksonville, FL, State Attorney Harry Shorstein instituted a program to prosecute and incarcerate such offenders in 1992. Two years later, the number of juveniles arrested in the city dropped from 7,184 to 5,475. While juvenile arrests increased for most of the Nation, Jacksonville's arrest rate actually decreased by 30 percent.

Mr. President, States also need to create and maintain juvenile criminal records. Typically, State statutes seal juvenile criminal records and expunge those records when the juvenile reaches age 18. The time has come to discard the anachronistic idea that crimes committed by juveniles, no matter how heinous, must be kept confidential from the rest of society.

Our laws continue to view juveniles through the benevolent prism of basically good kids gone astray. The law should really view the juvenile predators of today as the criminals that they are. These young criminals know that they can commit crime after crime because their juvenile records are kept hidden under a "veil of secrecy." They also know that when they reach their 18th birthday, they can begin a second career as adult criminals as if they had never committed a crime in their young lives. The argument is that we are protecting juveniles from the stigma of a record, but in reality we are coddling hardened criminals. We must separate rhetoric from reality by lifting the "veil of secrecy."

The law enforcement community needs to know if an individual has a prior juvenile criminal record in order to conduct criminal investigations and apprehend those responsible for crimes in their towns, cities, and counties.

According to Police Chief David G. Walchak, who is also president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, law enforcement is in desperate need of access to juvenile criminal records. The police chief says, "Current juvenile records (both arrest and adjudication) are inconsistent across the States, and are usually unavailable to the various programs' staff who work with youthful offenders." Chief Walchak also notes that "there are only 26 States that even allow law enforcement access to juvenile records * * * if we [law enforcement] don't know who the youthful offenders are, we can't appropriately intervene."