

retiring today after serving as the President of Delta State University for the past 24 years. During his tenure at Delta State, Dr. Wyatt has repeatedly been recognized as one of America's premier higher education administrators.

Kent was born in Berea, Kentucky and later moved to Cleveland, Mississippi. He earned an undergraduate degree in education from Delta State and a Masters degree in education from the University of Southern Mississippi. Kent topped off his formal education at the University of Mississippi where he received a Doctorate in Education.

After completing his doctoral studies at Ole Miss, Kent commenced his teaching career back home in Cleveland, Mississippi where he served as a mathematics teacher, a coach, and then as a principal for the School District. Kent soon followed in his father's footsteps, Forest E. Wyatt, who served as a teacher and the head football coach at Delta State University.

In 1964, Kent's alma mater, Delta State University, hired him as its Alumni Secretary. But, he quickly shifted over to the university's management. Recognizing his leadership and vision, Kent was named Delta State's fifth President in 1975 after serving six years as assistant to the president.

During the last quarter century, Kent has amassed an impressive record. He continuously emulated "quality without compromise." As a result of his stewardship, Delta State's faculty has grown from 202 to 328, with all academic programs receiving national accreditation, and 18 new facilities were built. Since 1975, Delta State's enrollment has grown by 32%. Equally astounding, Kent increased the university's financial assets by a factor of ten since 1975. A most impressive record for Dr. Wyatt and Delta State University.

Kent's peers in Mississippi and across the nation have repeatedly drawn on his academic leadership. For example, Kent recently served on the Search Committee for the Executive Director of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and on the NCAA's President's Commission.

Running a large university would challenge many, but Kent also managed to serve those off campus too. Kent also served his community for over three decades. He was the President of the Cleveland Lions Club as well as the President of the Chamber of Commerce. He also served on the boards of the United Way, Mississippi Economic Council, Grenada Banking System, Union Planters Bank of Northwest Mississippi, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Kent currently serves as a Deacon at the First Baptist Church.

Kent's wife Janice, their children Tara and Elizabeth, as well as their grandchildren Kent Wyatt Mounger and Collins Hartfield Mounger, have good reasons to be proud of his many accomplishments.

As Congress addresses the many challenges facing higher education in America today, my colleagues and I can benefit from the many contributions Kent has made in Cleveland, Mississippi. Not only has he been an inspiration to the more than 15,000 college students who passed through the halls of Delta State during his tenure, Kent has helped to mold the future leaders of this great country.

Kent and Janice have chosen to stay in Bolivar County. While he will be missed at Delta State, the town of Cleveland, the County of Bolivar, the State of Mississippi, and Mississippi's Congressional delegation are thankful that Kent, a true Delta State Statesman, has chosen to remain in his hometown to serve as a continuing inspiration for public service at its best.

Mr. President, I want to express to Kent my heartfelt appreciation for everything he has done for his community, our state, and the nation. I am hopeful that Kent and Janice will enjoy the next important phase of their lives.

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#### COMMEMORATION OF U.N. TORTURE VICTIM SUPPORT DAY

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, this past Saturday was the 2nd annual U.N. International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors. The practice of torture is one of the most serious human rights abuses of our time. According to Amnesty International, torture conducted by government security forces, or that is condoned by other government officials occurs in at least 120 countries today. We need look no farther than today's headlines about Turkey, Iraq, Kosovo, China and Ethiopia to know that we will be dealing with the problems that torture victims face for many years.

We can and must do more to stop such horrific acts of torture, and to treat its victims. Focusing on treatment and rehabilitation for torture survivors is one of the best ways we can manifest our concern for human rights worldwide. As our recent intervention in Kosovo to stop a humanitarian crisis demonstrates, both the United States and the international community have become aware of the need to prevent these human rights abuses and to punish the perpetrators when abuses take place. Yet, too often we have failed to address the needs of the victims after their rights have been violated. The treatment of torture victims must be a central focus of our efforts to promote human rights.

This commitment to protect human rights is one shared by many around the world. In 1984 the U.N. approved the United Nations Convention Against Torture. The U.S. Senate ratified it in April of 1994. And just last year the Congress enacted the Torture Victims Relief Act which authorizes funds for treatment services for victims of torture in the United States and abroad. I was pleased to learn that last week the

Senate Committee on Appropriations recommended that the funds authorized by the act be appropriated in full in the foreign operations appropriations bill. Under this recommendation, AID will provide \$7.5 million to support foreign treatment centers and the U.S. will contribute \$3 million to the U.N. Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. I hope this recommendation makes it through to the final bill which goes to the President. While these are significant achievements, we must focus on what more needs to be done.

In many countries torture is routinely employed in police stations to coerce confessions or obtain information. Detainees are subjected to both physical and mental abuse. Methods include beatings with sticks and whips; kicking with boots; electric shocks; and suspension from one or both arms. Victims are also threatened, insulted and humiliated. In some cases, particularly those involving women, victims are stripped, exposed to verbal and sexual abuse. Medical treatment is often withheld, sometimes resulting in death.

The purpose of torture is intimidation and the total destruction of an individual's character. Torture impacts on humanity in profound ways. The shattering of lives, dispersing of families, and destruction of communities all result from this politically-motivated form of violence. The destruction of people's humanity, cultures, and traditions are often the result for both the torturer and the victim of torture.

Treating torture victims must be a much more central focus of our efforts as we work to promote human rights worldwide. Without active programs of healing and recovery, torture survivors often suffer continued physical pain, depression and anxiety, intense and incessant nightmares, guilt and self loathing. They often report an inability to concentrate or remember. The severity of trauma makes it difficult to hold down a job, study for a new profession, or acquire other skills needed for successful adjustment into society.

Friday morning I met with Sister Dianna Ortiz and several other torture survivors courageous enough to share their stories. They related to me horrific tales of family displacement, sexual abuse, and mental and physical humiliation. Mr. Feltavu Ebba, a survivor from Ethiopia told me his horrific tale of torture he received solely based on his ethnic identification. He said:

I was locked up in a room 4 meters by 4 meters with more than 50 other prisoners. I was not allowed to see my family and relatives for the first six years.

Needless to say, the damage done to his relationship with his children can never be repaired. Also, every minute of his existence in prison was wrought with emotional and physical pain. He said:

Again after three years of prison in 1982 I was physically and mentally tortured for a week . . . This time by dipping me head-

down in a barrel filled with cold, dirty water and beating under my feet with interwoven electrical wire.

Another survivor, Monica Feria, told me of her torture in Peru. Rather than attempt to speak on her behalf, I will let her words speak for themselves.

We ran for our lives through the ducts that took us to another prison where the male prisoners accused of belonging to the Shining Path were kept. On the way many of us were shot. While crawling I saw bodies that had been blown up, arms, heads, and blood. Everything was covered with that horrible colour of burnt black. As I crawled avoiding the bullets I felt under me dead bodies still warm. The horror . . .

This is only a fraction of the horrific episodes relayed to me by these courageous survivors. Just last week the New York Times quoted the Human Rights Watch organization as being distressed at the continued prevalence of torture worldwide.

In Minnesota, we began to think about the problem of torture and act on it, over ten years ago. The Center for Victims of Torture in Minneapolis is the only fully-staffed torture treatment facility in the country and was one of the first in the world; there are now over 200 centers worldwide. The center offers outpatient services which can include medical treatment, psychotherapy and help gaining economic and legal stability. Its advocacy work also helps to inform people about the problem of torture and the lingering effects it has on victims, and ways to combat torture worldwide. The Center has treated or provided services to hundreds of people over the last ten years.

Some of the often shrill public rhetoric these days seems to argue that we as a nation can no longer afford to remain engaged with the world, or to assist the poor, the elderly, the feeble, refugees, those seeking asylum—those most in need of aid who are right here in our midst. The Center for Victims of Torture stands as a repudiation of that idea. Its mission is to rescue and rehabilitate people who have been crushed by torture, and it has been accomplishing that mission admirably over the last ten years. It is a light of hope in the lives of those who have for so long seen only darkness, a darkness brought on by the brutal hand of the torturer.

I would like to thank the distinguished human rights leaders who have helped me in this fight, including those at the Center for Torture Victims in Minneapolis and others such as Sister Ortiz, the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Committee (TASSC), the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, and those in the human rights community here in Washington and in Minnesota. Without their energy and skills as advocates for tough U.S. laws which promote respect for internationally-recognized human rights worldwide, the cause of human rights here in the U.S. would be seriously diminished. I salute them today. We recommit ourselves to the aid of torture survivors, and to building a world in which tor-

ture is relegated to the dark past, and in which torture treatment programs are made obsolete.

#### THE MISSING, EXPLOITED, AND RUNAWAY CHILDREN PROTECTION ACT OF 1999 S. 249

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I had planned to be giving a statement on final passage of the "Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act of 1999." Unfortunately, I cannot do this, because just as there was last year, there continues to be a hold up on passing this important legislation. We could and should have passed this legislation last year. We could and should pass this legislation today.

Last year we missed that opportunity when the Republican majority in both Houses of Congress played partisan games and tried to use this non-controversial authorization bill as a vehicle to insist on conferencing a much-criticized Republican juvenile justice bill. That procedural gimmick cost us valuable time to get this legislation enacted.

The majority was roundly criticized. The Washington Post went so far as to call the Republican Majority's short-circuit conference tactic "faintly absurd." The San Francisco Chronicle used even stronger terms, calling it "sneaky maneuvering and Byzantine procedural moves." The Philadelphia Inquirer's reaction to this tactic was: "Shame on the House. And shame on the Senate if it approves this bill as is, without debate." The New York Times labeled this maneuver a "stealth assault on juvenile justice."

By contrast to last year, at least in the Senate, procedural ambushes on juvenile justice legislation have been eschewed and we were given the opportunity last month to have full and fair debate. After significant improvements through amendments, the Hatch-Leahy juvenile justice bill passed the Senate on May 20, 1999 by a strong bipartisan vote.

Similarly, I am pleased that the Leahy-Hatch substitute to this bill, the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act of 1999, overwhelmingly passed the Senate on April 19. In late May, the House of Representatives followed suit.

The House, however, inserted new language, not included in the Senate-passed bill. This new language includes two studies and language regarding the "consolidated review of applications" for grants under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

The first study mandates the Secretary of HHS to examine the percent of runaways who leave home because of sexual abuse. The study is not funded and sets an unreasonable time frame. The second instructs the Secretary of Education to commission a \$2.1 million study by the National Academy of Sciences on the antecedents of school violence in urban, suburban, and rural schools, including the incidents of

school violence that occurred in Pearl, Mississippi; Paducah, Kentucky; Jonesboro, Arkansas; Springfield, Oregon; Edinboro, Pennsylvania; Fayetteville, Tennessee; Littleton, Colorado; and Conyers, Georgia. The study must include the impact of cultural influences and exposure to the media, video games, and the Internet.

It is my understanding that this school violence study was slipped into the legislation after the House committee reported the bill. In essence this bill seeks to mandate funding from the Department of Education, although this authorizing legislation, and sets an unreasonable time frame for a thoughtful study to be conducted. I do not support such efforts to bypass the consideration of the Appropriations Committees.

The juvenile violence study inserted into S. 249 also duplicates numerous studies in, S. 254, the Senate-passed juvenile justice bill. The studies in S. 254 include:

Study of Marketing Practices of Motion Picture, Recording, and Video/Personal Computer Game Industries. The Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice are directed to study the extent of the entertainment industry's marketing of unsuitable materials to minors and the industry's enforcement of the current rating systems.

Study. This section instructs the Comptroller General to conduct a study on (1) the incidents of school-based violence; (2) impediments to combating school-based violence; (3) promising initiatives for addressing school-based violence; and (4) crisis preparedness of school personnel and law enforcement officials.

School Violence Research. This section instructs the Attorney General to establish a research center that will serve as a clearinghouse for school violence research at the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement in Little Rock, Arkansas.

National Commission on Character Development. This section creates a National Commission on Character Development to study and make recommendations with respect to the impact of cultural influences on developing and instilling character in America's youth.

Study of Marketing Practices of the Firearms Industry. This section directs the Federal Trade Commission and the Attorney General to conduct a study of the marketing practices of the firearms industry to determine the extent to which the firearms industry advertises its products to juveniles.

National Media Campaign Against Violence. This section creates a \$25 million national media campaign targeted to parents and youth to reduce and prevent violence by young Americans. The campaign will be operated by the National Crime Prevention Council with the consultation of national, statewide or community-based youth organizations.