

MACK, has decided to retire from the Senate after serving two successful terms. This Senator from the Sunshine State has served his people and his country well.

Following graduation from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing, the young Senator-to-be began a successful sixteen-year career as a community banker. Quickly emerging as a local civic leader in Cape Coral, FL, he fought to ensure access to vital health care services in his community by leading the effort to build a local hospital.

Heeding the call of greater professional challenge, CONNIE MACK entered the political arena when he won election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982, a position he would occupy for the next six years. As a member of the House, he was recognized by U.S. News and World Report as one of the Nation's most effective "rising political stars." His sincere dedication to public service and love for the art and the process of legislating further propelled him to seek and win a seat in the United States Senate.

It is obvious that his Florida constituents understand and appreciate the degree of skill, dedication, and integrity that Senator MACK has brought to his work. And, as Republican Conference Chairman and third-ranking member of the Senate Republican leadership, it is obvious that his Republican colleagues have understood and valued those qualities in Senator MACK as well.

In 1994, Senator MACK had the distinguished honor of being the first Republican in Florida history to be reelected to the U.S. Senate. He received 70 percent of the vote, more than any other Republican Senate candidate in the nation. In that same year, Senator MACK was named by Campaigns and Elections magazine as one of the 20 most popular elected officials in America.

Mr. President, no Senator has fought more vigorously to protect and preserve the jewel-green waters, the soft, white beaches, and the inland springs that comprise the immense natural beauty of the marvelous peninsula he so effectively represents. He has been an ardent supporter of restoring the natural history and the fragile ecosystem of the Florida Everglades, a true national treasure. Most recently, Senator MACK played a large role in the recent Senate passage of the largest environmental restoration project in history—a \$7.8 billion effort to rescue the Florida Everglades from years of environmental degradation.

Senator MACK has been driven by his personal commitment to doing all that he can to provide a better, healthier life for all Americans and people of the world. He has worked long hours, and with great determination, in an effort to see that Federal dollars are wisely used to combat breast cancer, prostate cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's disease. The junior Senator from Florida has long realized the importance of

providing researchers with the tools necessary to continue the tremendous advances being made in biomedical research.

In the Senate, CONNIE MACK has been a true champion of the fight against cancer. He impressively co-chairs the Senate Cancer Coalition with Senator DIANE FEINSTEIN to heighten awareness of cancer research, early detection programs, improving cancer prevention, and exploring various innovative cancer treatment options. Senator MACK and his wife Priscilla, have both escaped the clutches of cancer, and have led the charge to ensure that all Americans take to heart the message that early detection of cancer saves lives. The Senator and his wife have received numerous honors and awards in their crusade against cancer, such as the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship Ribbon of Hope Award in 1998 and the National Coalition for Cancer Research Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999.

Drawing upon his experience as a community banker, Senator MACK played a key role in defining the framework of landmark legislation in the Senate to modernize our nation's banking laws and offer more convenience for consumers. I supported this legislation. It has helped to shape the financial industry, enabling more efficient and appropriate responses to the burgeoning demands of an aggressive global marketplace.

And so, Mr. President, as he prepares to leave the Senate, I offer my sincere gratitude to Senator CONNIE MACK for his professionalism, for his friendship, for his leadership, for his candor, and for his many years of dedicated service to our nation.

Always a gentleman, and that means a lot in this body and in life, he brought to this Senate floor and to his committee work some of the best that Florida has to offer this Nation—a willingness to work hard, to make tough and principled decisions, and to seek common ground in order to serve the common good. It is these notable qualities which will be so sorely missed.

I wish my distinguished colleague from the Sunshine State well.

Next week I will have something to say about other colleagues who are retiring and about whom I have yet to state a farewell message.

I yield the floor.

HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to note my deep disappointment that hate crimes legislation has been dropped from the Department of Defense authorization bill in conference, despite the fact that both the Senate and the House have voted to include it. This is a major step backward for our commitment to civil rights.

The Senate passed the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2000, sponsored by Senators KENNEDY and GORDON SMITH, on June 20 by a strong

bipartisan vote of 57-42. This legislation would strengthen current law by making it easier for federal authorities to investigate and prosecute crimes based on race, color, religion, and national origin. It also focuses the attention and resources of the federal government on the problem of hate crimes committed against people because of their sexual orientation, gender, or disability.

The Senate bill also shows full respect for principles of federalism. It strengthens Federal jurisdiction over hate crimes as a back-up, but not a substitute, for state and local law enforcement. It has received strong bipartisan support from state and local law enforcement organizations across the country, support that is particularly significant to me as a former prosecutor.

On September 13, the House voted 232-192 to instruct their conferees to agree to the Senate language, showing that a strong bipartisan majority of the House also wanted to strengthen and expand our laws against hate crimes.

But the conferees have now ignored the will of both the Senate and the House. They have dropped the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, which has the support of not just the Congress but the President and the American people.

Their objection cannot be that this legislation is unimportant. Hate crimes affect more than just their victims and their victims' families—they inspire fear in those who have no connection to the victim beyond a shared characteristic such as race or sexual orientation. When James Byrd, Jr. was dragged behind a pickup truck and killed by bigots in Texas for no reason other than his race, many African-Americans throughout the United States surely felt diminished as citizens. When Matthew Shepard was brutally murdered in Wyoming because he was gay, many gay people throughout the United States felt less safe on our streets and in their homes. These crimes promote fear and insecurity that are distinct from the reactions to other crimes, and House and Senate have both agreed that they should have distinct punishments.

The conferees' objection cannot be that this legislation is unnecessary. Bigotry and hatred are corrosive elements in any society, but especially in a country as diverse and open as ours. We need to make clear that a bigoted attack on one or some of us diminishes each of us, and it diminishes our Nation. As a Nation, we must say loudly and clearly that we will defend ourselves against such violence. All Americans have the right to live, travel and gather where they choose. In the past we have responded as a nation to deter and to punish violent denials of civil rights. We have enacted Federal laws to protect the civil rights of all of our citizens for more than 100 years. The hate crimes amendment this Senate

approved and the House endorsed continues that great and honorable tradition.

The conferees' objection cannot be that this legislation is unconstitutional. This bill accomplishes a critically important goal—protecting all of our citizens—without compromising our constitutional responsibilities. It is a tool for combating acts of violence and threats of violence motivated by hatred and bigotry. The Constitution does not permit us in Congress to prohibit the expression of an idea simply because we disagree with it. As Justice Holmes wrote, the Constitution protects not just freedom for the thought and expression we agree with it. As Justice Holmes wrote, the Constitution protects not just freedom for the thought and expression we agree with, but freedom for the thought that we hate. I am devoted to that principle, and I am confident that this bill does not contradict it.

The conferees' objection cannot be that this legislation has not been properly examined. In addition to gaining the approval of the Senate and the House this year, similar legislation passed the Senate last year. It has been the subject of great discussion in the general public and in the halls of Congress. It is long past time to act on this legislation.

Finally, the conferees's objection cannot be that hate crimes are rare occurrences. In addition to the terrible murders of Mr. Byrd and Mr. Shepard, the last years have seen the murder of former Northwestern basketball coach Ricky Byrdsong and others in a bigoted Illinois shooting spree, the terrible sight of small children at a Jewish community center in Los Angeles fleeing a gunman who sprayed the building with 70 bullets from a submachine gun, and racially-motivated crimes in the Pittsburgh area by both African-American and white offenders. And these are just some examples of a wider phenomenon of hate-based crimes.

I would like to thank Senators KENNEDY and GORDON SMITH for their exhaustive efforts on behalf of hate crimes legislation. I regret that their efforts and the will of the House and Senate have been frustrated.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read the names of some of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue to fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

October 6, 1999:

Hector Colon, 34, Bridgeport, CT;

David Cook, 32, Kansas City, MO;

Raymond Foster, 32, Philadelphia, PA;

Michael Gatherright, 46, Detroit, MI;

Andres Geronimo, 15, Houston, TX;

Jose Godinez, 19, Chicago, IL;

Jerome Green, 40, Boston, MA;

Relendo McKarney, 21, Washington, DC;

Christopher Reese, 17, Fort Worth, TX; and

Ennis Walton, 29, Denver, CO.

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The deaths of these people are a reminder to all of us that we need to enact sensible gun legislation now.

THE PASSING OF PIERRE ELLIOT TRUDEAU

Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President, last week the Canadian people learned of the passing of their former prime minister, Pierre Elliot Trudeau. His funeral, which took place on Wednesday, brought Canada's many political factions together for an unusual moment of unity. I would like to take this time to share with my colleagues my thoughts on this momentous event for our neighbors.

Pierre Trudeau led Canada at a time when that nation made enormous progress both internally and on the world stage. He served as prime minister from 1968 through 1984, with a brief nine-month hiatus in 1979–80. During these years, Trudeau championed many initiatives, and supervised the process by which Canada replaced its ties to Great Britain with a constitution of its own. His agenda affected Canadian politics for years after he left office.

Pierre Trudeau's private life certainly made many headlines, but his most enduring legacy was his success in addressing the separatist movement in his native Quebec. Just two years after assuming the prime minister's post, he won plaudits from the Canadian people for his toughness in dealing with separatist terrorists who had kidnapped a British diplomat and a Quebecois provincial official. Ten years later, in May 1980, Trudeau's leadership and persuasiveness convinced 59.6% of Quebecois to vote against separating from the national government. At the same time, though, he was sensitive to his country's French-speaking population; Canada was made officially bilingual in 1984.

I lived in Canada for seven years during the Trudeau era. As an American in this foreign-but-nearby land, I learned first-hand how Pierre Trudeau shaped and influenced the maturation of Canada. Although the United States and Canada certainly had their differences during this era, particularly on matters of arms control, I know that our nation fully respected his abilities and leadership qualities that guided Canada through some momentous times.

Our friendly neighbor to the north has lost a great leader, and I hope all of my colleagues will take a moment to recognize the enormous legacy of Pierre Elliot Trudeau.

THE HAZARD SUPPORT SYSTEM

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, Benjamin Franklin once described how "for want of nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the rider was lost."

I wish to call the Senate's attention today to a similar situation. For \$13 million, we could help prevent hundreds of millions of dollars in losses from forest fires.

This case involves a Federal program which can help detect wild fires and volcanic activity from space. It is a small program that has been in a pilot phase for a couple of years but which is now operational. Except it is not operating. It stopped when funding for it ended on September 30, 2000. Unfortunately, funds to keep it going have not been authorized or appropriated for the next fiscal year.

The program, which only recently came to my attention, is called the Hazard Support System. It is operated by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and is a forceful example of how today's modern technologies can be employed to the benefit of us all.

For several years, our fire and volcanic agencies have been working with the Department of Defense to realize the potential dual use of the nation's ballistic missile warning satellites to argument existing fire detection and suppression capabilities and to monitor global volcanic activity.

We have heard a great deal about fires over the past few months. On average there about 100,000 wildland fires in the United States each year, destroying millions of acres of timber, rangeland, and homes at the cost of hundred of millions of dollars. In 1994, federal fire suppression cost \$920 million.

Here is a system—the Hazard Support System—which can detect fires of less than a quarter acre in size and dispatch warnings via the Internet to fire fighters in five minutes, saving potentially millions of dollars—not to mention people's homes—and it is not being funded.

The system's utility is not limited to forest fires but also can be used to detect volcanic eruptions and to track ash clouds.

One can ask why should we care about tracking ash clouds?

Imagine cruising through an ash cloud in a airplane at 30,000 feet above Alaska: volcanic ash is sucked into the jet's engines where it instantly melts, coating the inside of the engines, cutting off the flow of oxygen, and causing the engines to stall. The plane drops to 10,000 feet where the engines restart only because the rapid descent has dislodged the ash crust. This actually happened to an aircraft in Alaska.