

twenty-five states participate in this mediation program, including Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

I am pleased we were able to clarify and expand the scope of mediation in this reauthorization. With the support and direction of the Coalition of Agricultural Mediation Programs (CAMP), mediation now clearly can aim to resolve disputes such as wetland determinations, grazing issues, and USDA farm program matters, in addition to the traditional credit role of mediation. CAMP represents the individuals and entities across the nation who administer the state agricultural mediation programs, and I thank that organization for their leadership on this issue.

I want to specifically offer my thanks and gratitude to Linda Hodgin, Director of Mediation and Ag Counseling, with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. Linda's knowledge, input, and ability to work with CAMP enabled Congress to enact the mediation reauthorization this year. Under her direction in the last two years, around 500 family farmers and ranchers in South Dakota have benefitted from the services of mediation and counseling. The mediators and counselors who work with Linda in South Dakota are to be commended for their time and commitment to family farm agriculture.

We live in a day and age where nearly every farmer and rancher must secure financing from some source in order to take care of production costs associated with agricultural production. This mediation program allows agricultural producers to settle their credit and farm program disputes in a fair way without digging themselves into legal debt. I wish to thank my colleagues who supported this important initiative.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mrs. BOXER. 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 this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

October 26, 1999:

Manuel Guilara, 78, Miami-Dade County, FL;

Damien McFarland, 25, Gary, IN; Willie B. Nelson, 47, Atlanta, GA; Sarah Petty, 49, Atlanta, GA; Brett Pleasants, 39, Denver, CO; Brenda Ray, 31, Atlanta, GA; Tony B. Richards, 32, Memphis, TN; Fernando Rodriguez, 25, Detroit, MI; Comer Sistrunk, Jr., 61, Cincinnati, OH;

Ronald Turchi, 61, Philadelphia, PA; Tony Unk, Houston, TX; Michael Washington, 16, Baltimore, MD; and

Deric West, 18, Oakland, CA.

One of the victims of gun violence I mentioned, 31-year-old Brenda Ray of Atlanta, was shot and killed one year ago today while walking home from her sister's house with her two children. A stranger approached Brenda, robbed her, then shot her in the chest while her six-year-old son and five-year-old daughter stood by watching.

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.

PASSAGE OF S. 3164

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the "Protecting Seniors from Fraud Act" passed the Senate. I was an original cosponsor of this bill, S. 3164, which Senator BAYH introduced on October 5, 2000, with Senators GRAMS and CLELAND. I have been concerned for some time that even as the general crime rate has been declining steadily over the past eight years, the rate of crime against the elderly has remained unchanged. That is why I introduced the Seniors Safety Act, S. 751, with Senators DASCHLE, KENNEDY, and TORRICELLI over a year ago.

The Protecting Seniors from Fraud Act includes one of the titles from the Seniors Safety Act. This title does two things. First, it instructs the Attorney General to conduct a study relating to crimes against seniors, so that we can develop a coherent strategy to prevent and properly punish such crimes. Second, it mandates the inclusion of seniors in the National Crime Victimization Study. Both of these are important steps, and they should be made law.

The Protecting Seniors from Fraud Act also includes important proposals for addressing the problem of crimes against the elderly, especially fraud crimes. In addition to the provisions described above, this bill authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to establish local programs to prevent fraud against seniors and educate them about the risk of fraud, as well as to provide information about telemarketing and sweepstakes fraud to seniors, both directly and through State Attorneys General. These are two common-sense provisions that will help seniors protect themselves against crime.

I hope that we can also take the time to consider the rest of the Seniors

Safety Act, and enact even more comprehensive protections for our seniors. The Seniors Safety Act offers a comprehensive approach that would increase law enforcement's ability to battle telemarketing, pension, and health care fraud, as well as to police nursing homes with a record of mistreating their residents. The Justice Department has said that the Seniors Safety Act would "be of assistance in a number of ways." I have urged the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee to hold hearings on the Seniors Safety Act as long ago as October 1999, and again this past February, but my requests have not been granted. Now, as the session is coming to a close, we are out of time for hearings on this important and comprehensive proposal and significant parts of the Seniors Safety Act remain pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee as part of the unfinished business of this Congress.

Let me briefly summarize the parts of the Seniors Safety Act that the majority in the Congress declined to consider. First, the Seniors Safety Act provides additional protections to nursing home residents. Nursing homes provide an important service for our seniors—indeed, more than 40 percent of Americans turning 65 this year will need nursing home care at some point in their lives. Many nursing homes do a wonderful job with a very difficult task—this legislation simply looks to protect seniors and their families by isolating the bad providers in operation. It does this by giving federal law enforcement the authority to investigate and prosecute operators of those nursing homes that engage in a pattern of health and safety violations. This authority is all the more important given the study prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services and reported this summer in the New York Times showing that 54 percent of American nursing homes fail to meet the Department's "proposed minimum standard" for patient care. The study also showed that 92 percent of nursing homes have less staff than necessary to provide optimal care.

Second, the Seniors Safety Act helps protect seniors from telemarketing fraud, which costs billions of dollars every year. This legislation would give the Attorney General the authority to block or terminate telephone service where that service is being used to defraud seniors. If someone takes your money at gunpoint, the law says we can take away their gun. If someone uses their phone to take away your money, the law should allow us to protect other victims by taking their phone away. In addition, this proposal would establish a Better Business Bureau-style clearinghouse that would keep track of complaints made about telemarketing companies. With a simple phone call, seniors could find out whether the company trying to sell to them over the phone or over the Internet has been the subject of complaints

or been convicted of fraud. Senator BAYH has recently introduced another bill, S. 3025, the Combating Fraud Against Seniors Act, which includes the part of the Seniors Safety Act that establishes the clearinghouse for telemarketing fraud information.

Third, the Seniors Safety Act punishes pension fraud. Seniors who have worked hard for years should not have to worry that their hard-earned retirement savings will not be there when they need them. The bill would create new criminal and civil penalties for those who defraud pension plans, and increase the penalties for bribery and graft in connection with employee benefit plans.

Finally, the Seniors Safety Act strengthens law enforcement's ability to fight health care fraud. A recent study by the National Institute for Justice reports that many health care fraud schemes "deliberately target vulnerable populations, such as the elderly or Alzheimer's patients, who are less willing or able to complain or alert law enforcement." This legislation gives law enforcement the additional investigatory tools it needs to uncover, investigate, and prosecute health care offenses in both criminal and civil proceedings. It also protects whistle-blowers who alert law enforcement officers to examples of health care fraud.

I commend Senators BAYH, GRAMS and CLELAND for working to take steps to improve the safety and security of America's seniors. We have done the right thing in passing this bipartisan legislation and beginning the fight to lower the crime rate against seniors. I also urge my colleagues to consider and pass the Seniors Safety Act. Taken together, these two bills would provide a comprehensive approach toward giving law enforcement and older Americans the tools they need to prevent crime.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LOCAL 1945, AFGE

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President I rise to day to pay tribute to the Local 1945 Chapter of the American Federation of Government Employees.

On December 1, 1959 the charter of the American Federation of Government Employees (Local 1945) was established at Anniston Army Depot. Of the seventy-eight charter members that established Local 1945, only nine survive today.

These nine leaders in government service, through their courage and dedication, were instrumental in the development of a proud and professional workforce for Anniston Army Depot and the Department of Defense. The workforce these individuals cared for and inspired has supported United States soldiers around the world during times of conflict, crisis and war. In the jungles of Vietnam, along the thirty-eighth parallel, and in the sands of Ku-

wait have been evidenced the dedication of the Anniston Army Depot employees to their nation's soldiers. Tanks, small arms, and munitions did not leave the hills of Alabama alone but were accompanied by the thoughts and prayers of a humble and caring group of federal employees shaped in many ways, by these special nine men.

Today, while we seek to honor these fine men in the sunset of their lives it must be noted that the traditions of excellence and integrity they gave to their co-workers still survives in youthful exuberance, rekindled by this remembrance.

In homage to: Billy Bean; Elmer Graham; Raymond Guthrie; Atwell Burgess; William Hammond; Raymond Lusk; George Hunt; J.B. Perry; and William Hagan.●

RECOGNIZING CALIFORNIA'S OLYMPIANS

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize California's participants in the Games of the XXVIIth Olympiad for their outstanding efforts and accomplishments. I am so proud of their performances and the dignity with which they carried themselves.

This year, the United States had another spectacular Games, and I am particularly pleased that Californians had much to do with our success. Some of this year's most memorable moments involved athletes from California: Marion Jones was the first woman ever to medal in five track and field events, Sean Burroughs helped our baseball team snatch gold from a heavily favored Cuban Team, Eric Fonoimoana and Dain Blanton won gold in the beach volleyball tournament, Venus Williams was the second woman ever to win gold medals in both singles and doubles tennis, and Lisa Leslie led the women's basketball team to its 34th Olympic championship.

The Olympics have long been the world's premiere stage where athletes compete; their performances are inspiring and, sometimes, heart-breaking. And while the world enjoys two weeks of drama and intense competition, we must remember that these athletes have chased their Olympic dreams for years, even decades, with perseverance and courage. I thank each athlete—qualifier and medal winner alike—for giving us the privilege of witnessing their triumphs. Each performance was a very personal moment in these athletes' lives, and I am inspired by their courage and resolve to pursue their Olympic dreams. These athletes competed with all their heart and they make California proud.

Mr. President, I ask that the following names of the medal winning athletes from California be printed in the RECORD.

Aaron Peirsol, Silver medal, Swimming—Men's 200 Meter Backstroke.

Amanda Beard, Bronze Medal, Swimming—Women's 200 Meter Breaststroke.

Venus Williams, Gold Medal, Tennis—Women's Singles; Gold Medal, Tennis—Women's Doubles.

Serena Williams, Gold Medal, Tennis—Women's Doubles.

Guenther Seidel, Bronze Medal, Equestrian Team Dressage Grand Prix.

Christine Traurig, Bronze Medal, Equestrian Team Dressage Grand Prix.

Eric Fonoimoana, Gold Medal, Men's Beach Volleyball.

Dain Blanton, Gold Medal, Men's Beach Volleyball.

Sean Burroughs, Gold Medal, Men's Baseball.

Marion Jones, Gold Medal, Track and Field—Women's 100 Meters; Gold Medal, Track and Field—Women's 200 Meters; Gold Medal, Track and Field—Women's 4x400 Meter Relay; Bronze Medal, Track and Field—Women's 4x100 Meter Relay; Bronze Medal, Track and Field—Women's Long Jump.

Chryste Gaines, Bronze Medal, Track and Field—Women's 4x100 Meter Relay.

Torri Edwards, Bronze Medal, Track and Field—Women's 4x100 Meter Relay.

Mari Holden, Silver Medal, Cycling—Women's Individual Time Trial.

Lisa Leslie, Gold Medal, Women's Basketball.

Gary Payton, Gold Medal, Men's Basketball.

Alonzo Mourning, Gold Medal, Men's Basketball.

Jason Kidd, Gold Medal, Men's Basketball.

Mark Reynolds, Silver Medal, Sailing—Men's Open Sail Star Fleet Races.

Lorrie Fair, Silver Medal, Women's Soccer.

Kaitlin Sandeno, Bronze Medal, Swimming—Women's 800 Meter Freestyle.

Bernice Orwig, Silver Medal, Women's Water Polo.

Joy Fawcett, Silver Medal, Women's Soccer.

Mark Crear, Bronze Medal, Track and Field, men's 110 Meter Hurdles.

Jason Lezak, Silver Medal, Swimming—Men's 4x100 Meter Free Relay.

Jenny Thompson, Gold Medal, Swimming—Women's 4x100 Medley; Gold Medal, Swimming—Women's 4x200 Meter Free Relay; Gold Medal, Swimming—Women's 4x100 Meter Free Relay; Bronze Medal, Swimming—Women's 100 Meter Freestyle.

Lenny Krazelburg, Gold Medal, Swimming—Men's 100 Meter Backstroke; Gold Medal, Swimming—Men's 200 Meter Backstroke; Gold Medal, Swimming—Men's 4x100 Meter Medley.

Anthony Ervin, Gold Medal, Swimming—Men's 50 Meter Freestyle; Silver Medal, Swimming—Men's 4x100 Meter Free Relay.

Anthony Ervin, Silver Medal, Swimming—Men's 4x100 Meter Free Relay.

John Godina, Bronze Medal, Track and Field, Men's Shot Put.

Pease Glaser, Silver Medal, Sailing, Women's 470 Fleet Races.

Tom Wilkens, Bronze Medal, Swimming—200 Meter Individual Medley.

Dara Torres, Gold Medal, Swimming—Women's 4x100 Medley; Gold Medal, Swimming—Women's 4x100 Meter Free Relay; Bronze Medal, Swimming—Women's 100 Meter Butterfly; Bronze Medal, Swimming—Women's 100 Meter Freestyle; Bronze Medal, Swimming—Women's 50 Meter Freestyle.

Sheila Douty, Gold Medal, Softball.

Kathy Sheehy, Silver Medal, Women's Water Polo.

Calvin Harrison, Gold Medal, Track and Field—4x400 Meter Relay.

Alvin Harrison, Gold Medal, Track and Field—4x400 Meter Relay; Silver Medal, Track and Field—400 Meters.

Stacey Nuveman, Gold Medal, Softball.

Yolanda Griffith, Gold Medal, Women's Basketball.

Lisa Fernandez, Gold Medal, Softball.

Danielle Slaton, Silver Medal, Women's Soccer.