

butyl ether, to provide flexibility within the oxygenate requirement of the reformulated gasoline program of the Environmental Protection Agency, to promote the use of renewable ethanol, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 84

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 84, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the naming of aircraft carrier CVN-77, the last vessel of the historic "*Nimitz*" class of aircraft carriers, as the U.S.S. *Lexington*.

AMENDMENT SUBMITTED

EXTENDING RETROACTIVE ELIGIBILITY DATES IN THE OMNIBUS CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT OF 1968

LEAHY AMENDMENT NO. 3147

Mr. BURNS (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 1638) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the retroactive eligibility dates for financial assistance for higher education for spouses and dependent children of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who are killed in the line of duty; as follows:

On page 2, line 10, strike "May 1, 1978" and insert "January 1, 1978".

On page 2, line 12, strike "October 1, 1978" and insert "January 1, 1978".

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 17, 2000, at 2 p.m. to conduct an oversight hearing on Implementation of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, P.L. (101-644). The hearing will be held in room 562, Dirksen Senate Building. Those wishing additional information may contact committee staff at 202/224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 17, 2000, at 2 p.m. to conduct a hearing on S. 1148, to provide for the Yankton Sioux Tribe and the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska certain benefits of the Missouri River Pick-Sloan Project and S. 1658, to authorize the construction of a Reconciliation Place in Fort Pierre, South Dakota. The hearing will be held in the Committee room, 485 Russell Senate Building. Those wishing additional information may contact committee staff at 202/224-2251.

COMMEMORATING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE MADE BY THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES WHILE SERVING AS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 247, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 247) commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, we need to do a better job supporting our federal law enforcement officers and our State and local law enforcement officers. This is National Police Week and today was the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service in which we remembered another 139 federal, State and local officers who died in the line of duty. I commend Senator CAMPBELL for introducing S. Res. 247 back in January. I am sorry that the Judiciary Committee did not take it up and report it before today, but am supportive of his efforts and agreed to discharge the Committee, so as not to miss today's activities.

As someone who served in law enforcement for 8 years as the Chittenden County State's Attorney, I respect and admire those who devote their careers to public safety. I took issue with the extreme rhetoric that some have recently used to attack our Federal law enforcement officers who helped return Elian Gonzalez to his father.

For example, one of the Republican leaders in the House of Representatives was quoted as calling the officers of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, the U.S. Border Patrol, and the U.S. Marshals Service: "jack-booted thugs." And the Republican Mayor of New York City, who is seeking election to this body, called these dedicated public servants: "storm troopers." This extreme rhetoric only serves to degrade federal law enforcement officers in the eyes of the public.

Let none of us in the Congress, or who are seeking to serve in Congress, contribute to an atmosphere of disrespect for law enforcement officers. No matter what your opinion of the law enforcement action in South Florida, we should all agree that these law enforcement officers were following orders and putting their lives on the line, which they do everyday. Let us treat law enforcement officers with the respect that is essential to their preserving the peace and protecting the public.

This harsh rhetoric by Republican public officials reminds me of similar

harsh rhetoric used in April 1995, when the NRA sent out a fund-raising letter calling federal law enforcement officers "jack-booted thugs" who wear "Nazi bucket helmets and black storm trooper uniforms." President George Bush was correctly outraged by this NRA rhetoric and resigned from the NRA in protest. President Bush wrote to the NRA: "Your broadside against federal agents deeply offends my own sense of decency and honor. . . . It indirectly slanders a wide array of government law enforcement officials, who are out there, day and night, laying their lives on the line for all of us." I praised President Bush in 1995 for his actions and again recently.

President Bush was right. This harsh rhetoric of calling federal law enforcement officers "jack-booted thugs" and "storm troopers" should offend our sense of decency and honor. It is highly offensive and did not belong in any public debate on the reunion of Elian Gonzalez with his father, either. We are fortunate to have dedicated women and men throughout Federal law enforcement in this country who do a tremendous job under difficult circumstances. They are examples of the hard-working public servants that make up the federal government, who are too often maligned and unfairly disparaged. These are people with children and parents and friends. They deserve our respect, not personal insults.

In countless incidents across the country everyday, federal law enforcement officers, who are sworn to protect the public and enforce the law, are in danger. These law enforcement officers deserve our thanks and our respect. They do not deserve to be called "jack-booted thugs" and "storm troopers."

I went to the Senate floor in the wake of those comments to join the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association in condemning these insults against our nation's law enforcement officers. Any public official who used this harsh rhetoric owes our Federal law enforcement officers an apology. I regret that members of the majority party have not followed President Bush's example and, likewise, condemned that extreme rhetoric.

This week is an annual occasion in which we pause to remember the federal, State and local officers who gave their lives in the line of duty over the past year. It is a difficult week and an important week. It should be a productive week, as well.

I said last week at the Judiciary Committee Business Meeting that the Committee should be taking up and reporting S. 2413, the bill that Senator CAMPBELL and I introduced to improve our Bulletproof Vest Grant Partnership Act by reauthorizing the program for another 3 years, raising the annual appropriation to \$50 million and guaranteeing to jurisdictions with populations less than 100,000 a fair share of these resources. This program has been

very helpful in offering federal assistance to help protect State and local officers in concrete ways. It is an extraordinarily successful program and it should be extended and expanded. I thank President Clinton for his support and for calling for enactment of this measure during his remarks at the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service today. I hope that when the Committee meets later this week, Senator HATCH will see fit to include this measure on the agenda and that the Committee will act favorably on it.

In addition, I look forward to enacting additional measures that protect and assist State and local law enforcement. In particular, I was extremely disappointed last year when an anonymous Republican objection prevented S. 521, my bill to improve the Bulletproof Vest Grant Partnership Act, from passing. This bill would allow the Attorney General to waive or reduce the matching fund requirement for assisting poor and rural law enforcement units to provide this life-saving equipment to officers and prevent injury and death. I cannot understand why anyone would want to oppose that effort.

Finally, I am disappointed that the Congress has not taken final action on the Public Medal of Valor Act, S. 39, championed by Senator STEVENS. The awarding of a medal for extraordinary valor shown by law enforcement officers every year would be a good way to draw attention to the service provided every day by officers all across this country. That bill passed the Senate a year ago by unanimous consent. I cosponsored the bill along with 28 others. For the past year, the House has not found the time to pass it. Today the President announced that he will explore ways to proceed to honor valor by our public safety officers through executive action if Congress continues to stall action on this bill. I hope that Congress will finally act on S. 39 this week and send it to the President for his signature.

These are just a few of the important legislative matters that the Congress should address to help our federal and state law enforcement officers. We should strive for constructive action rather than half-baked rhetoric.

Mr. GRAMS. Madam President, I rise today to honor Federal, State and local law enforcement officers who work to protect and serve the public on a daily basis. I am proud to be a cosponsor of S. Res. 247, which designates today as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and recognizes law enforcement officers killed or disabled in the line of duty.

During National Police Week, law enforcement officers in all fifty states will pay tribute to their fellow officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, approximately 130 law enforcement officers lost their lives in 1999 while protecting the public. In my home state, 187 Minnesota law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty since 1914.

Most recently, the name of Minnesota State Patrol Corporal Timothy Bowe was added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Sadly, more than 14,000 law enforcement officers paid this ultimate sacrifice during the 20th Century. I am honored to pay tribute to the men and women who demonstrated extraordinary bravery while caring for our families and communities.

I would also like to note the extraordinary sacrifice of families who have lost a son, daughter, spouse, parent, or relative who was slain while performing their police duties. We honor the memory of these officers by providing for the families that they have left behind. When I think about these families, I am reminded of the inscription on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial—"In valor there is hope."

I am very pleased that the Senate is continuing its efforts to provide support for the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Specifically, I have cosponsored S. 1638, legislation introduced by Senator JOHN ASHCROFT that would retroactively provide financial assistance for higher education to the spouses and children of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Current law provides that the dependants of federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty after May 1, 1992, are eligible for this assistance. Dependents of state and local law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty after October 1, 1997, are also eligible. This legislation would change these dates to May 1, 1978, for federal law enforcement officers and October 1, 1978, for state and local law enforcement officers.

This important legislation, endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police and the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, builds upon police benefits legislation that passed the 104th and 105th Congress with my strong support. Since 1995, we have enacted the Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance Act of 1996, the Public Safety Officers Educational Assistance Act of 1998 and the Care for Police Survivors Act of 1998. These laws help to support the families of our law enforcement officers and keep alive the memory of these brave and heroic men and women.

During National Police Week, I join all Minnesotans in honoring the memory of slain law enforcement officers and their contributions to promoting public safety throughout our communities.

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and, finally, that any statements in relation to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 247) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 247

Whereas the well-being of all citizens of this country is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;

Whereas more than 700,000 men and women, at great risk to their personal safety, presently serve their fellow citizens in their capacity as guardians of peace;

Whereas peace officers are the front line in preserving our children's right to receive an education in a crime-free environment, which is all too often threatened by the insidious fear caused by violence in schools;

Whereas 134 peace officers lost their lives in the performance of their duty in 1999, and a total of nearly 15,000 men and women have now made that supreme sacrifice;

Whereas every year 1 in 9 officers is assaulted, 1 in 25 officers is injured, and 1 in 4,400 officers is killed in the line of duty; and

Whereas, on May 15, 2000, more than 15,000 peace officers are expected to gather in our Nation's Capital to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor them and all others before them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes May 15, 2000, as Peace Officers Memorial Day, in honor of Federal, State, and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I welcome our law enforcement officers to town. There are quite a few of them. They have a memorial at Judiciary Square here in town. They are acknowledging those young men and women who have fallen in the line of duty.

OMNIBUS CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 434, S. 1638.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1638) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the retroactive eligibility dates for financial assistance for higher education for spouses and dependent children of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who are killed in the line of duty.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3147

(Purpose: To further extend the retroactive eligibility dates to January 1, 1978)

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, Senator LEAHY has an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows: