

Recent developments in sonar and submersible vehicles promise to accelerate discoveries in ocean depths. Multibeam sonar, emitting a wide swath, gives the exact contour of the ocean bottom, rather than extrapolating from a single beam directed below a vessel. Advanced sonar can detect temperature fluctuations to fractions of a degree. The upper few hundred feet of the oceans hold 1000 times more heat than the atmosphere, but scientists do not yet know how this may affect changes in global climate. The private sector is improving the capabilities of remotely operated vehicles and autonomous underwater vehicles. These vehicles, armed with the newest in sonar equipment, will gain better knowledge of bathymetry, resources and navigation.

Two years ago, President Clinton convened an internationally renowned panel of oceanographers and charged them to develop a United States strategy for ocean exploration. In October of 2000, the Ocean Exploration Panel presented its recommendations. The panel challenged the federal government to embrace the discovery of the unknown, to dedicate a vessel for ocean exploration, and to establish an Ocean Exploration Program.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provided leadership on this directive by establishing the Office of Ocean Exploration. The Bush Administration proposed \$14 million for NOAA to accomplish this significant endeavor for Fiscal Year 2002. The Senate Appropriations bill for the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State provided for this amount, and it is my hope that it will be retained in conference.

The panel further recommended designating a lead federal agency for ocean exploration. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the U.S. Department of Commerce has the authority, the mission, the track record, the desire, and the capabilities to provide a leadership role. For these reasons, NOAA should be recognized as the federal leader for ocean exploration.

In the Senate of Hawaii, our cultural history is entwined in the history of the ocean. From fishermen to tourists, researchers to snorkelers, we integrate the oceans into our daily lives. Marine life embodies those very elements which define Hawaii. The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, and many other federal and state marine protected areas illustrate the importance we as a community place on our marine resources. The commitment to nurture, protect, and educate people about the ocean represents the essence of malama kai, care for the sea, which is so important to the Hawaiian culture. Given the importance of the sea to our sustenance and livelihoods, it is essential that we learn about and share the responsibility to

protect our ocean and coastal resources.

The steep terrain of Hawaii's coastal underwater lands and its location in the Pacific Ocean make Hawaii a prime candidate from which to launch deep-sea exploration. The Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory (HURL), established by NOAA under the National Undersea Research Program and the University of Hawaii, works through private, state and federal grants to study the processes of the deep ocean. HURL's Ocean Bottom Observatory has been studying the volcanic activity of the undersea volcano, Loihi, and its effects on the global carbon cycle and tsunamis. Studying this dramatic phenomenon is critical to understanding the creation of Pacific Islands and submerged land masses that provide essential habitat for marine life.

I applaud the efforts of those who continue down the unmarked path toward ocean exploration, constructing the framework for future discoveries. At this time of national resolve and sorrow, I call attention to the global challenges that we face to understand the inner space of our earth—the oceans. A true ocean odyssey under the leadership of NOAA should be developed in cooperation with the Navy, National Science Foundation, NASA, the USGS, universities and private not-for-profit organizations. Our oceans are crucial to our existence and national security; we must understand them.

AMERICA MUST OPPOSE HATE CRIME

Mr. VOINOVICH. Madam President, one of the guiding principles upon which the United States of America was founded is that of religious freedom. Indeed, it is guaranteed in the Constitution, and it is a right that we as Americans hold dear.

Our forefathers came to these shores from nations all over the world searching for the ability to worship as they pleased, and even now, men, women and children still come to the United States to do so. Today, virtually every branch of religion known to man is represented here in the United States. That fact should not only be expected in a Nation of immigrants, but our diversity of cultures and religions should be celebrated.

However, in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, events have occurred across this Nation that fly in the face of our Constitutional guarantees. Acts of hatred have been perpetrated against Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans as if they had carried out or even condoned the killing of thousands of innocents.

I am disturbed by the stories I have heard in the last few weeks; a Sikh gas station owner in Mesa, AZ, who was shot and killed in the weekend following the attack simply because he was wearing a turban; a Pakistani Muslim grocer in Texas, as well as an Egyptian Christian in California, both

killed in crimes of hate as a result of the attacks; two girls in Palos Hills, IL, beaten because they were Muslim; a mosque in Evansville, IN, damaged by a man who rammed his car through a wall. We have had incidences of intolerance in my own home state of Ohio, I'm sad to say, where large ball bearings have been tossed through the windows of Arab-American owned businesses in Hamilton, and an Islamic Center in Cincinnati continues to receive harassing and threatening phone calls.

These stories, which have resonated across the country, do not constitute the views of the majority of Americans. Indeed, most Americans are peaceful and tolerant. The individuals perpetrating these crimes may think these acts represent patriotism, but they are far from it. Instead, they are perpetuating a hatred similar to that which drove 19 terrorists to take so many lives on that fateful Tuesday, and it must stop.

There are 6.5 million Muslims living in the United States today. By September 27, the FBI was investigating over 90 hate crimes committed against Muslims, individuals of Middle Eastern descent, or in some cases, individuals who appear Muslim or Middle Eastern. While these cases are under investigation, the Council on American-Islamic Relations has received reports of more than 625 attacks against Arab-Americans. This type of bigotry cannot go on.

On September 11, the terrorists did not single out their victims based on what they looked like or how they worshiped. They killed American citizens and foreign nationals of dozens of other nations indiscriminately. They murdered men, women and children of different ethnic backgrounds and religions, many of whom were themselves Muslims.

Some of our citizens have lost loved ones and friends, yet the vast majority of us have lost only our innocence. Our Nation is hurting right now, and we will all grieve in our own fashion, but we must not redirect our anger and frustration against one another.

Even in the face of such hatred in our own Nation, the rays of hope and compassion still shine. The same Islamic Center in Cincinnati that has been the target of hate has raised \$6,000 for the American Red Cross, and will hold a blood drive soon to help in rescue efforts. Muslims from the tri-state area, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, have also helped in the relief efforts, calling on their community to donate blood, give money, and pray for the victims and their families.

As President George W. Bush stated in his September 20 speech to the Nation, "[Islam's] teachings are good and peaceful, and those who commit evil in the name of Allah blaspheme the name of Allah." We must not only remember these words in the weeks to come, but we need to assure men and women of all backgrounds that the American

people understand that the terrorists who attacked the United States do not represent all Muslims, just like those who commit hate crimes against Americans of Muslim or Middle Eastern origin do not represent all Americans. The more that we understand one another, the greater the chance for peace.

THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE AS A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, I rise today to call attention to the dedicated men and women in our Federal workforce and the invaluable contributions they make to our Nation.

The tragic events three weeks ago appropriately has focused our attention on new ways to protect our Nation's critical infrastructure. A number of activities have been identified including communication, emergency services, and transportation. All are essential to the running of our country. However, on September 11 we were all quickly reminded of another critical infrastructure—our Federal Government and its workforce. For every essential service these attacks disrupted, we expected our government to respond quickly and effectively—and those in government did. Our Nation's recovery will be aided because of the talents and professionalism of our Federal workforce.

Like us all, I was struck by the heroism of rescue workers in the moments following the events of September 11. Law enforcement officers, firefighters, and others raced into buildings to save lives. Teachers calmed children in schools and kept them safe from the surrounding horrors. Local officials executed response plans and coordinated resources. These are among the many examples we will long remember.

Representatives from the Federal Government worked side by side with those brave and selfless local and State heroes. Various federal agencies responded to immediate social and community needs by providing temporary food and shelter, emergency child care, and other support services. At ground-zero, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, and other Federal agencies worked with State and local rescue workers. They set up emergency and coordinated disaster responses, opened communications, and provided needed medical assistance. Federal transportation agencies worked with industry to put our air, rail, and road networks back into operation. Our Federal Law Enforcement Officers and intelligence specialists spent long hours in intense investigations to track down the terrorists and their networks. More than 2,100 federal employees were deployed in disaster response teams alone, not counting the thousands of others who responded to this national crisis as a part of their normal duties.

Despite the attacks, Americans were able to rely on their government. We received our mail. The Federal Govern-

ment ensured the stability of our financial markets and Americans were able to count on the reliability of their banks.

Our Federal workforce responded in other ways not as immediately obvious, but just as important to our country's needs. Federal employees ensured the availability of a clean blood supply and monitored the quality of our air and water. Aid was provided through the timely processing of claims for survivors of victims and financial assistance for those not covered by unemployment insurance. Special loans were made available to small businesses and residents displaced by the disaster.

Despite the events of September 11, our Nation is functioning and recovering. This is due in part to the efforts of our Federal workforce whose response was immediate and thorough. The Federal workforce is this nation's backbone. Our ability to be resolute in confronting a faceless enemy is partially attributable to the strength of our backbone. We can take comfort and pride in the resilience and fortitude of our government workers.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred May 25, 2001 in Honolulu, HI. Two teens were charged with attempted murder after allegedly dousing the tents of gay campers, while people were inside, with flammable liquid and setting one on fire in Polihale State Park. Police believe the crime is a hate crime based on "insinuations and remarks" made by the suspects at the time. Victims in the attack said the perpetrators threw rocks and shouted homosexual slurs at about 20 men prior to setting the tent on fire.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN HONOR OF ALDERMAN JAMES BALCER

• Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor a man who has served not only the City of Chicago with tireless dedication but who has served his county with selfless valor. Alderman James Balcer is a hero by any definition, and the Bronze Star re-

cently pinned to his chest is only a token symbol of a life marked by bravery and service.

The people of Chicago know Jim Balcer as Alderman Balcer, representing the 11th ward on the City Council. They know him as a strong advocate for the city's veterans and as an effective voice for his community. Few know more about military history or are more dedicated to understanding the challenges facing those who have fought for our country. During his four years on the city council, Alderman Balcer has worked tirelessly for his constituents and sung their praises without so much as a note from his own horn.

But long before he was Alderman Balcer, Jim was Pfc. Balcer in the U.S. Marine Corps. As an 18-year-old soldier more familiar with the streets of his home area of Bridgeport than the jungles of southeast Asia, Balcer was a member of the 9th Marine Regiment during the Vietnam War. In late February of 1969, Pfc. Balcer and his company were holding their position on a hilltop in the A Shau Valley in Laos. As a group of the soldiers descended into the valley below on a reconnaissance mission, enemy fire erupted from the dense foliage, trapping the group in a hail of bullets and shrapnel.

With dozens of young Marines killed and wounded at the bottom of the hill, it was Pfc. Jim Balcer who volunteered to lead the mission to rescue them. Through that long Laotian night, in the pouring rain and deep, treacherous mud, Balcer made trip after trip into the valley to reach his fallen comrades. Half-hour descents through the jungle were followed by nearly four hours of backbreaking climbs up steep and slippery embankments, under enemy fire and carrying makeshift stretchers made from ponchos.

Thanks to Pfc. Balcer and his fellow Marines, every member of the 9th Regiment who went into the valley that night in 1969 came out. The Bronze Star is given to soldiers who distinguish themselves "by heroic or meritorious achievement or service . . . while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force." Ordinary language to describe extraordinary courage, but hardly enough to describe the actions of someone who to this day still tells his own story without a hint of bravado.

The City of Chicago is fortunate to have someone so tenacious and selfless on its side. Alderman Jim Balcer is as dedicated to Chicago and its people now as he was to his fellow soldiers then. A man of integrity and honor, he is to be commended on receiving the Bronze Star. Wear it proudly, Jim, for we are proud of you.●