

Reform Task Force. As an outgrowth of his Federal ethics work, Stan has also developed a special commitment to law enforcement organizations nationwide. Because of his work on behalf of law enforcement groups everywhere and our nation's parks, Stan has been named an honorary member of the U.S. Park Police.

Several years ago, as if his plate wasn't already full enough, Stan fulfilled a lifelong dream of joining the Mississippi Army National Guard. For a number of years now, he has regularly commuted between Washington, D.C. and Jackson, Mississippi to fulfill his duty requirements. During that time, he has risen to the rank of Major in the Judge Advocate General Corps where he now serves as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for Headquarters, 66th Troop Command.

On Wednesday, October 17, 2001, Stan will conclude over fifteen years of faithful and loyal service in my office. And while it is difficult to lose a staff member with such dedication and institutional knowledge, I know that he and his family are excited about returning home to Mississippi where Stan and his wife, Lauren, can begin raising their four children with an appropriate southern accent.

In the weeks ahead, Stan will begin a new journey in his professional and legal career as the Chief Deputy Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Southern District office in Mississippi. I have no doubt that Stan will serve the Department of Justice, the State of Mississippi, and the people of our Nation, in this role with distinction and integrity. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I want to wish Stan all of the best in his new career. Stan, may this new chapter in your life and career be rewarding, fulfilling, and bring you all that you hope for in your future endeavors. Thank you, again, for your service and my warmest congratulations on a job well done.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT EVANDER EARL ANDREWS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today in sadness over the first announced American casualty in Operation Enduring Freedom. Master Sergeant Evander Earl Andrews, who was stationed in my home State of Idaho at the Mountain Home Air Force Base, was killed in service to his country in the Arabian Peninsula. He was part of the 366th Civil Engineer Squadron stationed there. Although Master Sergeant Andrews was originally from a small town in Maine, Idaho feels this loss along with the rest of the Nation.

Master Sergeant Andrews went to the Middle East to fight for our freedom with valor and courage in this time of national crisis and made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country. There are no words for such an incredible loss, but we are a great Nation because of brave men and women like Master Sgt. Andrews.

Flags are flying all over our country now, a visible display of the support our military troops and our President have over Operation Enduring Freedom. With the news of the first American casualty, it becomes even more evident that American lives will be lost in this fight against terrorism. Our hearts and prayers are not only with the family of Master Sergeant Andrews in Idaho and Maine, but also with the families of all our military troops, who are serving their country so far away.

This will be a long war, one that will be won over a period of months or years through several strategic actions; there is no one operation that will rid the world of the evils of terrorism. But one thing is certain: freedom will prevail and we will not forget Master Sergeant Andrews and others like him to whom we owe our liberties.

VISION 2020 WORLD SIGHT DAY 2001

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, Vision 2020 World Sight Day 2001 is observed today, Thursday October 11, 2001, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, WHO, the 2020 Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Christian Blind Mission International, CBMI, and a partnership of 26 international organizations concerned with world blindness working together to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020.

Forty-five million people living in our world today are totally blind. Eighty percent of this blindness could be prevented or cured with simple cost-effective nutrition, medicines and medical care. A child in our world goes blind every minute, most often due to a simple lack of Vitamin A. More than half of these precious children will die within 2 years of losing their sight.

The primary causes of blindness, malnutrition, disease, lack of medicines and medical care, are always linked to the grinding poverty so characteristic of developing nations around the globe. Millions of men, women and children needlessly live in a prison of darkness 24 hours a day. They desperately need the help of privileged nations to be set free.

The Vision 2020 program plans to eliminate most of the world's blindness by the year 2020. But with no intervention, the number of blind in this world will reach an estimated 100 million by the year 2020.

World Sight Day 2001 raises awareness that most blindness, associated misery, and several billion dollars in related costs can be prevented if we as a nation and a world intervene in time.

I commend the 2020 Foundation, Christian Blind Mission International and the other members of the 2020 Task Force for helping bring the gift of sight to the less fortunate around the world.

SIX SIMPLE STEPS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, an organization called Common Sense about Kids and Guns has developed a list of

six gun safety tips that have been endorsed by a wide range of organizations from the National SAFE KIDS Campaign to the National Shooting Sport Foundation. Regardless of our differences of opinion on how to regulate firearms, I think we can all agree that these simple steps make a lot of sense.

All gun owners should unload and lock up their guns, lock and store ammunition separately and keep keys where kids are unable to find them. In addition, parents should ask if guns are safely stored at places their kids visit or play, regularly talk with their kids about guns, and teach young children both not to touch guns and tell an adult if they find one.

The Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics reports that firearm deaths of children and teens is dropping. However, ignoring firearms related child homicides, there were still 1,300 kids killed in gun-related accidents and suicides in 1999. That number remains far too high. Remembering the six simple steps proposed by Common Sense about Kids and Guns can help cut that number even more.

PREPARING FOR BIOTERRORISM IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues, Senator JOHN EDWARDS, and Senator CHUCK HAGEL, in supporting legislation to help South Dakotans prepare for possible bioterrorist attacks. The recent example of anthrax being reported in Florida has highlighted the importance of being prepared to combat bioterrorism in our communities.

Now this doesn't mean that everyone should run out and buy a gas mask. Successful attacks using germs and chemicals are relatively difficult to accomplish and rarely attempted.

However, the nature of such an attack makes just one successful act of bioterrorism unique and incredibly damaging. For example, most of the germs involved in bioterrorism, anthrax and smallpox to name a few, are so rare that many medical professionals haven't treated them before. Symptoms may not be visible for days or weeks, and these diseases can be spread easily among people.

In addition to threatening people, bioterrorism can also cripple our State's agriculture economy. We all saw this summer how the threat of foot-and-mouth disease in the United States can directly impact South Dakota's ag business.

The risk of an agriculture terrorist attack poses a serious threat to our economy as well as our abundant food supply. An agricultural terrorist could introduce a pathogen to a certain crop and decimate that crop's yield. A quickly-spreading animal disease intentionally introduced could cause economic ruin to States that depend on revenues from the livestock industry.

Earlier this week, the nonpartisan General Accounting Office, GAO, reported that coordination is fragmented between 40 Federal departments and agencies responsible for responding to a bioterrorist attack.

The GAO report also noted insufficient State and local planning for response to terrorist attacks. In addition, while spending on domestic preparedness for terrorist attacks has risen 310 percent since 1998, only a portion of these funds were used to conduct research on and prepare for the public health and medical consequences of a bioterrorist attack.

To better address the needs of State and local communities in dealing with the threat of bioterrorism, I recently joined Senators EDWARDS and HAGEL on legislation called the Biological and Chemical Weapons Preparedness Act.

Our legislation provides \$1.6 billion in new resources for Federal, State, and local efforts, including \$450 million specifically for agricultural counterterrorism and food safety measures.

Too often, bioterrorism funding has been tied up in the bureaucracy of Washington, and I'm pleased that our legislation sends over one-third of these funds, \$555 million, directly to States and local governments through new block grants. Our legislation gives States and local communities the resources to study the problems unique to them and implement appropriate solutions.

Our legislation would accomplish six goals. First, we would provide training and equipment to State and local "first responders," such as emergency medical personnel, law enforcement officials, fire fighters, physicians, and nurses, to recognize and respond to biological and chemical attacks.

Second, our bill strengthens the local public health network through increased training, coordination, and additional specialized equipment.

Third, we protect food safety and the agricultural economy by providing assistance to States to better coordinate with law enforcement and public health officials, increase training and awareness among farmers and other agricultural stakeholders. Our measure would also give States the resources they need to establish emergency diagnostic facilities to work in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's facility to quickly diagnose animal diseases. Along with this assistance to States, the measure would provide additional funds for the USDA's counterterrorism efforts.

Fourth, the legislation assists local hospital emergency rooms with response training and biocontainment and decontamination capabilities.

Fifth, we address the need to develop and stockpile vaccines and antibiotics.

Finally, our Biological and Chemical Weapons Preparedness Act enhances disease surveillance between the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, and State and local public health services to provide electronic nationwide access

to critical data, treatment guidelines, and alerts.

Our legislation has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and there have already been a handful of hearings held so far. I anticipate a number of proposals, similar to ours, being discussed and a compromise ultimately being sent to the President this year.

I will continue to work to ensure that the provisions in our legislation dealing with rural communities and agriculture remain in a final version that is signed into law by the President.

ONE-MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, grief has changed the face of America. We are a tear-stained Nation. But today, one month after the September 11 attacks, we are one America, united as seldom before.

Patriotism prevails throughout the country. The pins on our jackets, the flags taped to cars and hanging from windows, the millions of dollars in donations to the victims, this is the American response to tragedy.

We are united in support of our troops flying dangerous missions over Afghanistan. This is the first step in a prolonged campaign against the terrorists. It is a necessary step and it is directed at the right targets, the Taliban government that has given safe harbor to terrorist organizations for far too long.

Americans are also united in sympathy with the Afghan people. While our bombers are flying over Taliban strongholds, our C-17s are dropping food to the refugees.

Today, our thoughts are with those who lost their lives one month ago, and with the families who said goodbye to their loved ones for the last time.

But in the past month, we have seen the great spirit of Americans. The hatred and utter disregard for human life shown by the terrorists stands in stark contrast to the outpouring of sympathy and compassion by millions of Americans, in acts great and small. We gave what we could: Money, water, shelter, blood, and sometimes just a shoulder to lean on. Entertainers came together for an unprecedented benefit, athletes donated their salaries, and children even donated their piggy banks.

Among the most inspiring stories of September 11 were the rescue workers. Sadly, many of the heroes of September 11 are now among the victims. Their valor has inspired the Nation. Their sacrifice will not go unnoticed or their deeds unsung. If those rescue workers could muster the strength to do what was needed then, surely our Nation can find the strength to do what is needed now.

We must prepare our military, strengthen our intelligence operations, and tighten our security. And we must rally behind our President.

Let those who practice terrorism or harbor terrorists have no doubt about America's intent. We will find you. We will strike you militarily, economically, and politically. And you will pay a heavy price for your acts against mankind.

We have overcome the enemies of freedom before. We conquered the evil of fascism in Europe and Asia, rescued democracy, and built a better world. We defied communism for decades powered by the certainty that freedom would ultimately triumph over oppression. You will not take these gains from us.

Though we mourn the loss of our fellow Americans, our eyes are undimmed by tears. Our dreams are undiminished by fear. From the ashes of terrorism, we will build a new tower to freedom that will cast its light around the world.

And, with God's help, we will prove again what the poet Carl Sandburg once said: "We are Americans. Nothing like us ever was."

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, statistics show that a woman is raped every five minutes in the United States and that one in every three adult women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood. In fact, more women are injured by domestic violence each year than by automobile accidents and cancer deaths combined.

October, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, is a good time to take a serious look at the progress we've made in addressing the problem of abuse against women in our communities. In 1983, I introduced legislation in the South Dakota State Legislature to use marriage license fees to help fund domestic abuse shelters. At that time, thousands of South Dakota women and children were in need of shelters and programs to help them. However, few people wanted to acknowledge that domestic abuse occurred in their communities, or even in their homes.

During the last 7 years, I have led efforts in the United States Congress to authorize the original Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, and, most recently, expand and improve the program to assist rural communities. South Dakota has received over \$8 million in VAWA funds for women's shelters and family violence prevention services. In addition the law has doubled prison time for repeat sex offenders, established mandatory restitution to victims of violence against women, and strengthened interstate enforcement of violent crimes against women. South Dakotans can also call a nationwide toll-free hotline for immediate crisis intervention help and free referrals to local services. The number for women to call for help is 1-800-799-SAFE.