

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred October 7, 1998 in Traverse City, MI. A gay man was attacked by two men yelling anti-gay epithets. The assailants, Jeremy Jamrog, 21, and James Johnson, 24, were charged with aggravated assault in connection with the incident.

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.

#### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TASK FORCE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I stand here today to pay tribute to a group of Americans who have worked tirelessly to protect all of us. Following the tragic events of September 11, Al Lenhardt, the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Chairman of the U.S. Capitol Police Board recognized the value of bringing together a group of experts from outside the legislative branch to provide the expertise necessary to respond to this unprecedented attack on America. He brought in a team of experts and created the Legislative Branch Emergency Preparedness Task Force to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the Capitol Complex and provide recommendations that would enhance our security.

This extraordinary group of experts could quite easily have taken a simplistic approach and recommended turning the Capitol into an armed camp. Fortunately, they recognized that this building, known throughout the world as a symbol of freedom and democracy, is first and foremost the public's domain and must remain so. Instead of taking the easy route, they developed a carefully crafted series of measures which enhanced the security of everyone who walks through these doors. Members of Congress, staff and visitors alike without denying the American people their right to see and meet with their elected representatives. They ensured that the Capitol remained "the People's House."

Mr. Gary Quay of the Department of Defense, Colonel Richard Majauskas, Lieutenant Colonel Donald Salo and Lieutenant Colonel Stanley Tunstall of the Army, Lieutenant Commander David Klain of the Navy, Deputy Chief Chris McGaffin and Captain Edward Bailor of the U.S. Capitol Police, Mr. Michael DiSilvestro of the Office of Senate Security, Mr. Michael Johnson of the Senate Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Kevin Brennan of the House Sergeant at Arms, and Mr. Bill Weidemeyer and Mr. Jim Powers of the Architect of the Capitol dedicated themselves to the task of looking at every aspect of emergency preparedness on Capitol Hill.

All of us remember the confusion that reigned on September 11. In light

of what happened, that confusion was perfectly understandable. After all, never before had someone turned one commercial airliner into a weapon of mass destruction, let alone four. I am convinced that the rapid implementation of the Task Force's recommendations by Jeri Thomson, the Secretary of the Senate, Alan Hantman, the Architect of the Capitol, and Jim Varey, Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police, has significantly enhanced our ability to respond to emergencies and will prevent a repeat of that day's confusion.

In a world where cynicism and selfishness rule the day for some, I am proud to say this is not the case for these dedicated Americans. The safety of our nation's Capitol, and all who work in and visit it, is enhanced by their efforts. On behalf of Americans everywhere and the 107th Congress in particular, I am proud to stand here today and say "Thank you—job well done!"

#### PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH AN AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE MUSEUM

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, one of the most important chapters in our national story of human freedom and dignity is the history and legacy of the African American march toward freedom, legal equality and full participation in American society. Yet in our Nation's front yard, the national mall, there is no museum set aside to honor this legacy.

Yesterday, the Senate began the very important step toward establishing a national museum in Washington, DC to honor the rich history of African Americans.

With the passage of H.R. 3442, a bill that creates a Presidential commission that will develop a plan to establish and maintain the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Senate has taken a tremendous step closer to honoring those African Americans who not only fought for their own freedom but fought for the freedoms in this country that we enjoy today.

I thank my colleague Senator MAX CLELAND for his leadership in the Senate on this issue. Senator CLELAND worked diligently with me to draft a bill that would properly honor the history of African Americans. This legislation will enable our Nation to start the process that will honor this important aspect of American history.

Specifically, the legislation creates a 19-member commission made up of individuals who specialize in African American history, education and museum professionals. The commission has 9 months to present its recommendations to the President and Congress regarding an action plan for creating a national museum honoring African Americans.

The commission will decide the structure and makeup of the museum,

devise a governing board for the museum, and among other action items, will consider planning the museum within the Smithsonian's arts and industries building, which is the last existing space on the national mall.

As a Kansan, I feel a special connection to honoring the legacy of African Americans. The State of Kansas not only played a significant role in the civil war but also was chosen by many African American families as a place to begin their new life of freedom and prosperity in the "exodus" to Kansas.

I believe that it is long over due that we properly honor African American history by establishing a world class museum that showcases the achievements of African Americans in this country. I look forward to the commission's recommendations for establishing this museum on the national mall in Washington, DC, where African American history belongs.

I do not pretend that this legislation is a cure-all for the problem of racial division, it is, however, an important and productive step toward healing our nation's racial wounds. This museum will both celebrate African American achievement and serve as a landmark of national conscience on the historical facts of slavery, the reconstruction, the civil rights struggle and beyond.

Dr. King expressed his hope for national reconciliation. I too hope "That the dark clouds of [misconceptions] will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty."

Today, we are one step closer to fulfilling this goal. I am proud to be a part of honoring this magnificent history. As a nation we have an extraordinary opportunity before us—a chance to learn, understand and remember together our nation's history and to honor the significant contribution of African Americans to our history and culture.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, the gas additive MTBE has become a huge concern for millions across the nation because of the contamination that it has caused.

That is certainly true of many communities throughout New Hampshire where it has become a crisis, and the crisis will continue to escalate unless it is dealt with.

I have been fighting for the past two years to get the Senate to act on legislation that will solve this problem and up to now, unfortunate roadblocks have prevented this from happening.

I was pleased last week when the majority leader made a commitment to me that the Senate will vote on MTBE legislation before the end of February and I know that the majority leader will honor that commitment and I want to express my appreciation to him for working with me.

Until the day that vote arrives, I will continue to come to the floor to remind Senators of the terrible impact that MTBE is having on the nation and remind them why it is important that we act now.

Make no mistake about it—cleaning up MTBE contamination and preventing further contamination is something that the residents of New Hampshire are demanding and I will do all that I can to solve this problem.

Let me step back and provide some background on how we got where we are and why this legislation is so important to those many States that have suffered from MTBE contamination.

MTBE has been a component of our fuel supply for two decades.

In 1990, the Clean Air Act was amended to include a clean gasoline program.

That program mandated the use of an oxygenate in our fuel—MTBE was one of two options to be used.

The problem with MTBE is its ability to migrate through the ground very quickly and into the water table.

Several States have had gasoline leaks or spills lead to the closure of wells because of MTBE.

MTBE is only a suspected carcinogen, but its smell and taste do render water unusable.

Many homes in New Hampshire and across the nation have lost use of their water supply because of MTBE contamination.

According to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, there may be up to 40,000 private wells with some MTBE contamination and of those, up to 8,000 may have MTBE contamination over State health standards.

Because of MTBE, New Hampshire has been left with no option but to divert funds from other programs in order to pay for safe water for residents with contaminated wells, in many instances, the State has had to provide bottled water.

They are also installing and maintaining extremely expensive treatment equipment and these costs are so expensive that an average family could not afford to have clean drinking water without assistance.

Yesterday, I came to the Senate floor to talk about the hardships faced by many in the Western part of New Hampshire and I focused on the plight of a small business owner and two families in the Richmond area.

Today I want to talk about those in the Southern part of New Hampshire that have faced similar problems.

This past spring, as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I held a hearing in Salem, NH, at the hearing, the committee heard about the nightmares caused by MTBE.

I want to take a moment to tell you about one particular witness who lives in Derry, NH, Mrs. Christina Miller shared with the committee the experience that her family and neighbors have been dealing with because of MTBE.

Mrs. Miller, her husband Greg, and their infant son Nathan live in the Frost Road community in Derry, the area has been particularly hard hit by MTBE.

The gas additive was first detected there a little over three years ago and the concentration of MTBE in the well water was over ten times higher than the level where a person can smell it and taste it.

Since the discovery of MTBE in the wells, testing in the neighborhood has been on-going.

Currently, some 40 homes in the Frost Road community are being monitored for MTBE and so far, seven treatment systems, including one in the Miller home, have been installed in homes on and around Frost Road.

In April of last year, while Mrs. Miller was pregnant with Nathan, a water sample from the Miller well showed a high MTBE contamination level, and due to this discovery, the Millers began receiving bottled water from the State to replace the contaminated drinking water.

But while bottled water is fine for drinking, Mrs. Miller pointed out that it doesn't help with other daily needs such as: bathing; washing fruits and vegetables; and cooking.

There is also the potential health concerns associated with the contamination and not much is known about the health affects of MTBE—but when you have a new born, as the Miller's do with Nathan, the health uncertainties add to the already existing anxiety.

The State has installed a treatment system in their basement and it is a large, cumbersome intrusion in their house—it is also expensive.

This system consists of a residential air stripper and two carbon filter units and while the State is currently paying for the system, there is the concern about how long this will last and whether they will pay for any upgrades as well.

Needless to say, with the MTBE contamination and the presence of a large treatment system in their home, the Millers' are quite concerned with impact on the home's resale value.

What adds to the concerns is that the State still has not been able to determine the source of the MTBE.

It is a bad situation—one that begs for a remedy and the people of Derry are looking for help and relief from this federally mandated gas additive that has caused so much pain.

This problem is not unique to new Hampshire, it exists in Maine California, Nevada, Texas, New York, and on and on.

In fact, in Maine, one single car accident rendered 12 drinking wells unusable—just like that—we must do something.

I have a bill that has been reported out of committee two years in a tow—briefly, the bill will: Authorize \$400 million out of the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Fund (LUST Fund) to help the states clean up

MTBE contamination; Ban MTBE four years after enactment of this bill; Allow Governors to waive the gasoline oxygenate requirement of the Clean Air Act; Preserve environmental benefits on air toxics, and; Provide funds to help transition from MTBE to other clean, safe fuels.

Also, I am very pleased to be joining our subcommittee ranking member, Senator CHAFEE in introducing a new underground storage tank bill that includes MTBE cleanup funding.

The time to act is now—Just as I said yesterday, I will continue to come to the floor until the Senate acts on this issue. It is time to help out the families who have fallen victim to a Federal mandate.

#### PORT AND MARITIME SECURITY ACT

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, we worked hard with the administration to incorporate many of their suggested changes in this bill to sharpen the policy and create a better legislative product. I had intended to work with Chairman LEAHY of the Judiciary Committee to modernize and update some of our maritime criminal laws to reflect the realities following the attacks of September 11th, and to strengthen our laws to protect against maritime terrorism. Unfortunately, the administration did not consult or share with the Judiciary Committee the changes in criminal laws and other matters within the Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction that were provided to me. I ask the chairman of the Judiciary Committee if he would be willing to work to work with me and Senator MCCAIN next year to consider whether new criminal provisions are necessary to enhance seaport security?

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am also very concerned that we develop policies to more adequately protect our maritime vulnerabilities and protect the public from the threats emerging as a result of maritime trade. I would be happy to work with Chairman HOLLINGS and Ranking Member MCCAIN next year to evaluate whether any gaps in our criminal laws to protect our maritime safety and seaport security exist and the appropriate steps we should take to close those gaps.

Additionally, I have expressed to Chairman HOLLINGS my concerns that we properly limit access to and use of sensitive law enforcement information relating to background checks which are provided for in this bill. Chairman HOLLINGS has assured me that the bill sets strict and appropriate limits as to both when such access will be required and how the information will be used once obtained. I would like to ask Chairman HOLLINGS if he could explain those provisions?

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I share Chairman LEAHY's concern that we provide adequate safeguards for both access to and use of this sensitive