

who stated that he is determined to avoid Israeli loss of life and will act accordingly. I also told him that the Israelis intended to ease up on the borders as long as there were no threats to security; the Israeli government position was that all the violence must stop prior to any talks taking place. I then encouraged him to talk to the Israelis.

Foreign Minister Shara said I had persuaded Syria, or perhaps, more accurately been a factor, to enter into negotiations with Israel in my numerous discussions with former President Hafaz El-Assad during the 1980's and 1990's. I had first visited Damascus in 1984 and had met with President Assad almost every year from 1988 to 1998. Minister Shara stated that only after beginning discussions with the Israelis did it become apparent that they didn't want peace. I reminded him that both sides came very close on the Golan and that a dialogue must continue.

Our attention then turned to Iraq, China and recent American politics as well as efforts to exchange Parliamentarians with Iran.

We left Damascus and flew into Souda Bay, Crete, which houses the U.S. Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, and Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Two, VQ-2, a unit responsible for reconnaissance missions to the Mediterranean, and which is the counterpart to the unit that was involved in the recent mishap with a Chinese pilot in international waters off the coast of China.

I was met by Captain Steve Hoefel, the Base Commanding Officer and was set up in quarters for the night. That night, Rear Admiral Steve Tomaszeski, the Commander of the Mediterranean Air Fleet, flew in for a brief to be held the next morning.

On Friday, April 20, we received a classified brief on the mission of the base and its reconnaissance aircraft. The base's main responsibility is to support and resupply the forward-deployed Navy and Marine Corps forces. It has the largest fuel storage facility, largest ammo storage facility and the deepest port in the Mediterranean, and is strategically located near the Mid-East.

We toured the base, and the port facility located nearby. A large amount of construction was occurring on the dock with the installation of new facilities designed to give sailors and Marines all the amenities of home when they dock. I was pleased to find two Pennsylvanians among the many Navy Construction Battalion sailors working on the structures.

We also had the opportunity to tour an EP-3 aircraft similar to that which remains in China, and were briefed on the various station's responsibilities during flight operations, as well as talk to several of the crew members. We also had the opportunity to see an E3 AWACS on the runway.

From Crete we flew to Rome where we received a brief by the Charge

d'Affairs William Pope, and Margaret Dean, Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs. We discussed the effect of the European Union on NATO, reviewed the current areas of work for the embassy, and the effect of the strong U.S. dollar on tourism. In addition, I briefed them on parts of my visit to Florence including our meeting with the attorneys for Ferragamo, and our visit to the Georgetown campus.

Margaret Dean was familiar with the case that the Ferragamo attorneys had told us about in which a person purchased counterfeit goods at such a low price that the judiciary reasoned the purchaser could not have believed the goods to be authentic, and therefore found no fraud in the sale. She stated that often, because of that case, sellers of counterfeit goods often go so far to label the goods as "fake" to avoid prosecution.

The Embassy reported that it doesn't have any one overriding area that it concentrates on. It has several areas of concentration which include tourism, trade disputes, military issues, and the Mid-East situation. Charge d'Affairs Pope reported that Italy had changed a lot and had become a fairly different place in the last decade. He reported a recent high-tech emphasis that has helped propel the country's economy to the 6th largest in the world. The country has also benefitted from the increase in tourism generated by the strong American dollar.

On April 21, we flew from Rome to Philadelphia.

I yield the floor.

IN APPRECIATION OF ALYCE AND JACK BERGGREN

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity today to honor two very special people from my hometown of Aberdeen, SD. Alyce and Jack Berggren have contributed tirelessly to the arts of South Dakota, and I am blessed to call Alyce and Jack my long-time friends.

Alyce Bedrosian grew up in Chicago in an Armenian family. After earning a masters degree in piano from Northwestern University, she was hired by Northern State Teachers College in 1947. Though she carried a return train ticket from her concerned father, Alyce decided to remain in South Dakota. She never used the ticket.

Jack Berggren's boyhood was spent a world away in Scottsbluff, a small town in western Nebraska. He studied voice at Hastings College in Hastings, NE, and came to Northern State University in Aberdeen in 1949. There, he met Alyce, and they began performing together. In Jack's own words, he married his "accompanist" in 1950.

For almost half a century, the Berggrens have touched the lives of countless NSU students and music lovers of the northern plains. "Dr. B.," as his students affectionately call him, taught voice, directed choirs and served as the NSU Dean of Fine Arts.

His annual Messiah performances rekindle fond memories among many Aberdonians. Alyce continues to define excellence in piano performance and teaching, regularly accompanying students to this day.

Over two decades ago, friends, faculty, alumni and students surprised the Berggrens with a musical thank you. In 1978, to honor both Jack and Alyce, their community sponsored "The Gala Concert for the benefit of the Northern State College Music Department." In addition to NSU music students and faculty, the concert included the Aberdeen Barbershop Chorus and the Elks Chorus.

Gala II was held in 1989, and this year, May 5, marks the third Gala concert. I am pleased to know that the Johnson Fine Arts Center will once again display the talents of those touched by the Berggrens. I only regret that I cannot be there in person to enjoy the event and the company of Jack and Alyce. Instead, I hope this statement will serve as my small contribution and a symbol of immense gratitude to Jack and Alyce for their contributions to the musical arts in South Dakota.

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN COLE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to a very special person in South Dakota who has dedicated many years to the Northern Black Hills' Retired Seniors Volunteer Program.

Today, the directors and volunteers of this RSVP program will gather at their annual recognition banquet to celebrate the dedication and hard work of Kathryn Cole, who is retiring from this RSVP community after 21 years of service. In fact, for 20 of those years, Kathryn served as the director of this important program.

The generous gift of Kathryn Cole's time and experience has benefitted those around her in countless ways, and I truly applaud her "can-do" spirit, her determination, and her dedication to the betterment of the communities of the Northern Black Hills area. From Spearfish to Belle Fourche to Lead, Kathryn has sent hundreds of volunteers to serve and support local communities. With her warm spirit, she has always made a special effort to ensure that volunteers have the opportunity to participate in the activities that both interest and inspire them. From tutoring at local schools to delivering Meals on Wheels to offering services to the High Plains Heritage Museum and the Mathews Opera House, Kathryn has made an immeasurable contribution to the Northern Black Hills.

There is a special feeling of satisfaction that comes only from volunteering. Through her tremendous leadership, Kathryn Cole has helped seniors experience that satisfaction with service to their communities. I know my

colleagues will join me in honoring her dedication to improving the quality of life for area residents. We all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Kathryn for such an invaluable contribution to the Northern Black Hills and the entire State of South Dakota. We wish her well as she begins her well-deserved retirement.

BROWNFIELDS REVITALIZATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I want to take a moment to share some thoughts on the Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act. I believe that this act is important and can do positive things in communities across America.

Laws related to brownfields were the result of a much broader Act, which we commonly refer to as Superfund. Superfund was intended to bring about the clean up of some of the most contaminated sites in our nation. As Superfund has been implemented in our society we have found that it is often too cumbersome to bring about clean up and restoration of many brownfield sites. When we talk about brownfields we are not talking about the most contaminated sites in our communities, but about sites that are less contaminated and could realistically be bought, cleaned up, and developed thus bringing economic and other benefits to American citizens. Therefore, I share the thoughts of many of my colleagues and support removing the barriers to brownfields redevelopment.

When the average person wishes to invest in something such as an abandoned gas station, they are often discouraged from doing so for fear of the strict liabilities that could be imposed on them by Superfund. Attempting to relax the daunting liability provisions for those willing to buy brownfields sites for the purpose of cleaning and upgrading them is a huge step in the right direction.

I believe that enactment of this brownfields legislation, will provide a significant foundation for rebuilding many of our communities. Many of these sites are located in downtown areas and often serve as the breeding grounds for crime, drug trafficking and contamination. I am hopeful that passing this legislation will help restore downtown communities making them once again attractive to business, industry and prospective residents.

Many of us have watched these downtown areas slowly die. I know that in Albuquerque, NM, the largest city in the State, we have seen a huge shift away from the downtown area. Local businesses that once thrived were forced to close and slowly, what was once the metropolis of Albuquerque, began to seem like a ghost town.

I support this legislation because of the potential it brings to restoring places like downtown Albuquerque. As I briefly touched on, some of the most

important benefits of the bill are its liability and finality provisions. The bill specifies that prospective purchasers, innocent landowners, and contiguous property owners, who exercise due diligence in purchases, are not responsible for paying cleanup costs. The stringent liability scheme under Superfund hinders those who want to invest in these sites for fear of liability. These barriers are unnecessary and do not foster development and growth in our inner cities. Additionally, the bill precludes EPA from taking action on a site that a State has already placed in a cleanup program, unless there is an imminent and substantial endangerment to the environment or public health, and some additional work must be completed.

Finally, the bill authorizes \$150 million per year to help State and local governments perform assessments and cleanup at brownfields sites. Further, \$50 million per year is also authorized to establish and enhance brownfields programs, more than double the current level of funds available through the current EPA program.

Pumping federal tax dollars back into localities and fostering partnerships with States and their local communities can help rid our communities of the negatives such as crime and contamination while rejuvenating downtown economies.

Economics and Environmental health are not mutually exclusive. This bill would allow these types of areas to be cleaned up, thus providing both economic and environmental benefits. It is a win-win for everyone—cities and citizens alike.

I am hopeful that New Mexico, as well as many other communities across the nation, will see great benefits as a result of this legislation. I hope that we are successful at reviving the ghost towns that currently exist in many downtown areas and that they will once again come alive with prosperity.

CRIME VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, victims of crime deserve to have their voices heard and to be notified of important events in the criminal justice system relating to their cases, and they deserve enforceable rights under the law.

Today, this is why my colleagues and I are re-introducing the Crime Victims Assistance Act. It is especially appropriate that we do so this week, which is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Our bill defines the rights of victims and establishes an effective means to implement and enforce these rights. Equally important, it does so without taking the drastic, unnecessary, and time-consuming step of amending the Constitution.

Our bill provides enhanced protections to victims of both violent and non-violent federal crimes. It assures victims a greater voice in the prosecu-

tion of the criminals who injured them and their families. It gives victims the right to be notified and consulted on detention and plea agreements; the right to be heard at sentencing; the right to be notified of the escape or release of a criminal from prison or a grant of executive clemency; and the right to a speedy trial and prompt disposition, free from unreasonable delay.

The rights established by this bill will fill existing gaps in federal criminal law and will be a major step toward guaranteeing that victims of crime receive fair treatment. Our bill achieves these goals in a way that does not interfere with the efforts of the States to protect victims in ways appropriate to each State's unique needs.

Rather than mandating that States modify their criminal justice procedures in particular ways, our bill authorizes the use of federal funds to establish effective pilot programs to promote victim-rights compliance. It increases resources for the development of state-of-the-art systems for notifying victims of important dates and developments in their cases. It provides funds for the development of community-based justice programs relating to those rights. Finally, it creates and funds additional personnel in federal law enforcement agencies to assist victims in obtaining their rights. These initiatives will provide victims with the counseling, information, and assistance they need in order to participate in the criminal justice process to the maximum extent possible.

There is no need to amend the Constitution to achieve these important goals. The Constitution is the foundation of our democracy. It reflects the enduring principles of our country. The framers deliberately made the Constitution difficult to amend, because it was never intended to be used for normal legislative purposes. If it is not necessary to amend the Constitution to achieve particular goals, it is necessary *not* to amend it. Our legislation is well-designed to establish effective and enforceable rights for victims of crime, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH or Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY last month. 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.

Today, I would like to detail a heinous crime that occurred Nov. 7, 1998 in Easton, MA. An Easton teenager threw a large rock at a 17-year-old boy he thought was gay, kicked him in the head and yelled, swore and called the victim a "fag." The victim suffered a broken nose and a concussion. A week before the assault, the perpetrator told friends he hated gay people and thought they should be beaten up.