

THANKING AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, I rise today to commend the Maryland, Virginia, and Federal law enforcement agencies on the capture and arrest of the snipers who terrorized our region. For the citizens of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, life slowly returned to normal after the 23 days of sniper shootings in October, but life will never return to normal for the families of the victims who were killed, and those who are still recovering from their injuries. I would like to extend my sympathies to those families and to say that our hearts go out to them in this difficult time.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the police forces in our region, the sniper attacks were stopped before they could do more harm. An unprecedented level of cooperation and coordination among the different jurisdictions involved, as well as among the Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies, led to the capture of the two individuals now charged in the sniper attacks. The task force created during the sniper attacks did an excellent and effective job of sharing information, working together, and putting the safety of our citizens first. I thank all of the men and women who worked so tirelessly to apprehend the suspects and commend them for a job well done.

The Federal Government also played an important role in the investigation. The FBI provided support to State and local police forces in conducting the manhunt, the ATF helped track and research the guns and bullets used by the snipers, and the Department of Defense provided planes to monitor the region from the air. On October 8, I wrote a letter to Attorney General Ashcroft stating my support for Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose's request for Federal aid in the investigation, and I am extremely grateful that Federal aid was granted.

While it is impossible to thank all of those involved, I would like to acknowledge by name the resolve, extraordinary dedication and performance of Montgomery County, Maryland Police Chief Charles Moose and County Executive Doug Duncan, FBI Special Agent Gary Bald, and ATF agent Mike Bouchard, who became the public face of the crisis and the investigation for people all across the country. Their leadership, calm determination, and obvious skill in the most trying and tragic of circumstances, without precedent in our area, helped inform and assure the public that everything possible was being done.

Now that this multistate manhunt is over, the States involved must deal with the financial costs of the investigation. In order to assist area States in paying for these costs, I joined with Senators MIKULSKI, WARNER and ALLEN in a letter to the Department of Justice requesting Federal reimbursement for the enormous costs of the investigation. I am confident that these sus-

pects will be brought to justice and that this may provide some small measure of comfort for those who lost loved ones in these attacks.

The 23 days in October were a trying time for our area and the uncertainty of the sniper attacks unnerved residents of the region. The weight of this concern has been lifted, thanks to the hard work of our area law enforcement agencies. But for the families of those killed in the attacks, their loss will never be remedied and for them the weight will never be lifted.

We must move forward and reflect on the lessons learned from these tragic attacks. All jurisdictions involved, as well as the expanding number of jurisdictions in which these two suspects allegedly committed crimes, must now focus on preparedness. We have learned how effective the coordination of law enforcement agencies can be, and we must plan for such coordination in the future. And we in Congress can take steps to help States improve preparedness, coordinate law enforcement agencies, and use tools such as ballistic fingerprinting to prevent this from ever happening again.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last 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 June 5, 2001 in El Monte, CA. Three Latino men were accused of a hate crime after beating an African-American teen at a party and using racial epithets. The victim, who was dancing with a Latina woman at the time of the attack, suffered cuts to the mouth; a friend who came to his aid received abrasions to the face. One of the assailants fired a gun into the air before fleeing the party.

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 and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

RECOGNIZING THE 227TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, on November 10th, we honored the 227th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. For more than two centuries, the U.S. Marine Corps has exemplified the highest virtues of commitment, service, and sacrifice. From the Barbary Coast to the far reaches of the Pacific, in the jungles of Vietnam and across the vast

expanse of the Arabian desert, America's Marines have lived up to their motto: "Semper Fidelis."

Through the long march of our history, the U.S. Marine Corps has built a proud tradition. The smallest of the four service branches, they have typically been the "tip of the spear" of American military might. U.S. Marines have been among the first troops dispatched to international crises over the past century. Always apace with world dynamics, they have expanded their expertise to encompass the entire spectrum of conflict from humanitarian assistance to major theater war. Amphibious Forces have demonstrated—in times of crisis and frequently on very short notice—that they possess a capable and formidable "package" of ships and Marines to meet the threat across the full spectrum of modern conflict.

Our Marines have protected America's interests, struggled against foes that meant harm to our national security and that of our allies, and remained at the forefront of our Nation's efforts to maintain global peace and stability. From Lebanon to Bangladesh to Somalia, Marines restored and maintained order, aided people in distress, provided protection for the weak, and upheld the values that have come to define our country on the world stage. Many also made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country, and we honor their memory.

America's Amphibious Forces remain the force of choice in responding to crises in this uncertain world. When, in the early part of this year, this nation resolved to liberate Afghanistan from an oppressive regime and take action upon terrorist aggressors, it was again the United States Marine Corps who got the call—and responded valiantly. Despite Afghanistan's isolation, the first sustained U.S. military operation ashore was conducted by the 15th and 26th Marine Expeditionary Units, an expeditionary force that was deployed, organized and launched from the USS *Peleliu* and USS *Bataan* Amphibious Ready Groups. These two MEU's seized and established the first in-country staging base (Rhino, nearly 400 nautical miles inland), secured the Kandahar airport (another 200 miles) and established a base from which quick-reaction operations could be conducted to further track down Taliban and al-Qaida forces.

Amphibious ships with embarked Marine forces are one of the most formidable power projection capabilities in the world and represent our Nation's only sustainable forcible-entry capability. In peace and in war, their value has been ever-present.

Always faithful, our Marines are men and women of greatness. Tough and dedicated, they are truly the best America has to offer. For 227 years, they have stood for all that is great about this Nation. Their values, sense

of courage and steadfast character remain timeless and valuable commodities for an age in which our Nation faces considerable new threats.

Today, not unlike 227 years ago, the importance of our Marine Corps is immutable. The razor-sharp readiness of the U.S. Marine Corps reassures our friends and warns our enemies, promising swift action, decisive victories and a firm adherence to tradition.

As our U.S. Marine Corps celebrates another anniversary of its proud birth on November 10th, 1775 in Philadelphia's Tun Tavern, I stand with my colleagues in the Senate in saluting all who have worn the eagle, globe and anchor, and to their families who also serve by supporting them.

RECOGNIZING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, we convene again today after a national holiday set aside to honor one of America's greatest treasures, its veterans.

This important holiday, originally called Armistice Day, began as a commemoration of the historic ending of World War I at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. Armistice Day became primarily a day of remembrance for those who served during World War I; indeed, Americans hoped World War I would be "the war to end all wars."

Then, during World War II, 16 million Americans again answered the call to service on behalf of our Nation. After the war ended, Americans saw the need to honor all those who served in the United States Armed Forces, during times of war and peace, and through all periods of our history. On June 1, 1954, Armistice Day became Veterans Day.

I know that many of my colleagues joined me yesterday in taking the Veterans Day holiday to celebrate the soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who wore this Nation's uniform and served honorably. That is a start, but we must do more.

As the crisis with Iraq heightens, it is especially appropriate to make certain that we keep the promise of care and support made to young men and women who made great sacrifices on behalf of this Nation. We must remember the pledge of Abraham Lincoln, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan." As Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have fought hard for improvements in benefits and services for our Nation's veterans. We have made progress in fulfilling Abraham Lincoln's pledge this year, but we must never waiver in our commitment to provide our veterans with benefits and services that reflect their changing needs.

For example, our Nation's rapidly aging veterans have a critical need for long-term care. There can be no doubt that such care requires great resources, but it is our responsibility to answer

the call to provide a continuum of quality health care for veterans, as they once answered the call to preserve our freedoms.

I am honored to represent the State of West Virginia, which has one of the highest veteran populations per capita of any State. The service of the over 202,000 living West Virginia veterans inspires me each day in my role as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where I have the privilege to serve not only the veterans of West Virginia, but those living throughout this Nation.

America's 25 million living veterans deserve to be honored and respected every day, and not merely on the national holiday set aside for the commemoration of their service. It would be shameful if veterans were made to feel forgotten every day except for this one day each year. There should be no ambivalence toward those who have served our Nation in the armed forces.

I urge my colleagues to join me, not only to remember the sacrifices of our veterans, but to renew our commitment to them and to keep the promises that we made to them in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln. The men and women who served this Nation deserve no less.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to our Nation's devoted Veterans. It is these men and women, past and present, who embody the ideals of freedom, liberty and justice, which are the foundation of our great Nation.

Veterans Day is a time to recognize those Americans who gave what President Abraham Lincoln once called "the last full measure of devotion." While we reflect on the deeds of these heroes and stand grateful for their service and sacrifice, we must also ponder the ongoing actions of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

Ours is a great Nation of free people who call our finest men and women to stand guard and protect the liberty that all Americans enjoy. To this end, all of those who have donned the uniform of our Armed Forces have consciously given a piece of themselves. Whether during peacetime or a time of conflict; at home or abroad; in the active component, the reserves or the national guard; their service has been characterized by selflessness and a sense of a greater purpose.

Throughout our history, they have answered the call. Whether that call to service sent them to a distant land full of turmoil, or to the flight line at a base in the Midwest, they have served with dignity and honor.

I am proud that my home State of Texas has a rich tradition of military leadership. Our young men and women have signed up to serve their Nation and are stationed throughout the United States and in all corners of the globe. More Marines join the Corps from Texas per capita than any other State. And we are home to more Army and Air Force bases than any State.

As these men and women have sacrificed, so too has a far less recognized

segment of our Veteran population—their spouses. For each displaced serviceman, there is often a husband or wife left behind. These silent patriots have kissed their loved ones goodbye and sent them off to serve this country. They diligently run their households while their mate provides security at an airport in another part of the country or serves on a foreign base halfway around the globe. They have often put their career on hold and patiently moved the family to the next in a long series of new bases and new communities. Whatever accolades we bestow upon our Veterans, we must also remember the parallel sacrifice of their heroic spouses.

Today our troops are answering the call to duty in locations around the world. The war on terrorism is being waged by America's finest, from Afghanistan to the Philippines. Soldiers in South Korea continue to keep watch on the communist regime to their North. Air Force pilots continue to patrol the skies over Iraq as the world contemplates the future of the region. Reservists and National Guardsmen continue to serve, at the expense of their civilian vocations, on extended active duty for a year or more. Some of our military patriots continue to serve well beyond the date they were to leave active service because the Nation continues to need their expertise.

On this Veterans Day, we express our heartfelt gratitude to our Nation's veterans and to their spouses. We have incurred a debt to them that can never be fully repaid. Today we remember those who have gone before and honor tomorrow's veterans who serve our country today.

SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE MORE BANKRUPTCY JUDGES FOR MARYLAND

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, I rise today in strong support of legislation to provide more bankruptcy judges for several States, including three additional bankruptcy judgeships for my own State of Maryland. This legislation was introduced by Senator BIDEN and is being cosponsored by Senators CARPER, EDWARDS, FEINSTEIN, and SCHUMER.

This bill represents a significant step forward in our efforts to strengthen Maryland's Federal bankruptcy court. I have long been involved in this effort, and I commend Senator BIDEN for his efforts in this area. We have been working for several years to get these additional judgeships approved, yet no legislation has been passed that would authorize them. With such inaction, the problem facing Maryland's sitting bankruptcy judges has grown, and Maryland has remained without the additional judgeships it so desperately needs to make our bankruptcy system work.

Maryland's four sitting bankruptcy judges continue to show remarkable