

out their important work as defenders of the rights of people with disabilities. Nothing in my amendment today is intended to undermine that important authority in any other federal laws affecting the protection and advocacy system.

I look forward to continuing in my role as a champion of the protection and advocacy system, and of the rights of people with disabilities.

#### FIGHTING HATE VIOLENCE

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay homage to the legion of African-American leaders who have made extraordinary contributions to humanity by fighting to secure equality and justice for us all. As a consequence of their valiant efforts, people of color can now enjoy a quality of life, including unprecedented educational and professional opportunities, never before realized. Because of their courage, we all can experience the benefits that flow from building a nation that values the creativity and talent of all her citizens. I am, and we all should be, proud to be the beneficiaries of their heroic acts.

Despite the extraordinary accomplishments of the past century, however, we began this new millennium still burdened by the weight of racial prejudice and the hatred, and sometimes violence, that emanates from it. Based on improved data collection efforts, we now know that far too frequently individuals may be victimized or otherwise targeted for vicious acts, simply because of the color of their skin, or the content of their faith, or because of any number of distinguishing characteristics—differences that should form the basis of our best American values, but instead are used to injure certain individuals and tarnish the American spirit.

Simply stated, hate violence is a scourge on our national consciousness, and the incidents of it are embarrassingly high. Perhaps the best-known racially-motivated hate crime in recent years is the callous killing of James Byrd, who, for no other reason except the color of his skin, was chained to the back of a pickup truck and dragged to his death. Mr. Byrd's death was senseless and shocking, but by no means is it the only example of such a crime. Each year, thousands of Americans are subjected to hate crimes, in perhaps not so savage a manner as Mr. Byrd's murder, but no less cruel and no less harmful.

Consider these numbers: while the overall number of crimes reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2000 declined slightly, by 0.2 percent, reported hate crimes increased 2.3 percent, from 7,876 in 1999 to 8,063. And by all indicators, those numbers likely underestimate the true magnitude of hate violence in our country. Studies by organizations like the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives have revealed that countless tar-

gets of hate violence, some of whom are immigrants who fear reprisals or deportation, decline to report these crimes to the police.

As disturbing as the quantity of hate crimes committed each year, however, is the record number of young people who are perpetrating these crimes. According to a special report by the Federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, from 1997 to 1999, 33 percent of all known hate crime offenders were under the age of 18 years. For that same time period, another 29 percent of all hate crime offenders were 18 to 24 years of age. In total, an alarming 62 percent of all offenders were under the age of 24. When they should be imagining their college years or their early career plans, some kids, sometimes suffering under great mental depression, are instead conjuring up awful acts of hatred.

The damage caused by these crimes cannot be measured solely in terms of the physical injury inflicted or the property costs incurred. The devastation they provoke is far greater and much more destructive. These crimes fragment our society and inspire distrust. They fuel fear and suspicion of groups and communities that are unfamiliar. And, perhaps most fatal, they threaten to stall the important growth and community-building that must transpire for this Nation to retain its standing as a world leader for centuries to come.

If we have learned anything from the tragic events of September 11, it is that we cannot tolerate acts of hatred. We must enable a swift and tough law enforcement response by refining Federal hate crime laws, as well as give our children the tools to confront violent bigotry by providing necessary education and programming.

We can undertake to do nothing more important, nor pay any greater tribute to the heroes we honor during Black History Month, than to fight hate violence in every form and in every way we know. The security and safety of all Americans depend on it.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAN NAATZ

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to say goodbye to a good friend of mine, someone who has worked by my side for the last 13 years.

Dan Naatz has been my chief of staff for the last 2 years, but his commitment to me and Wyoming has lasted much longer than that.

I first met Dan back in 1989 when he joined my office in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was one of the first staff members I hired after being elected that year in a special election to fill the seat left open by DICK CHENEY who was nominated to be our Secretary of Defense.

After several years, Dan made the decision to return to school and earn a master's degree from the University of Virginia.

I was disappointed to see him go then, but after he earned that degree I

was fortunate enough to convince him to come back and serve as my legislative director.

Dan was with me when I was honored to win a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1994 as well. Our history together goes way back.

It is never easy to lose someone like Dan, who has been with me since the beginning. He has held nearly every position in my office and did them all very well. None better than the job he did of leading my staff and our legislative agenda for Wyoming.

It was inevitable though that Dan would be recognized outside of this body though for his expertise in crafting successful legislation and public policy.

Over the years, he has been a key advisor and good friend.

Particularly, Dan played a significant role in our efforts to reform and strengthen the National Park System.

As Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, he and I spent many hours together, first writing and developing changes that would improve the system for visitors and the valuable resources, and then, as the engine that helped see it through to public law.

I was proud of all the work he did, and he should be proud of the changes he helped make, because they will make a difference for future generations who will visit and experience our parks.

Dan has joined CHEP USA. I wish him and his wife Cindy and their family the best of luck, and I know the Senate body does as well.

#### PROSECUTING GUN-RELATED CRIMES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the fight to reduce gun violence must be waged on two fronts. First, we need to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, prevent children from gaining access to firearms and give law enforcement the resources they need to thoroughly investigate gun-related crimes. At the same time, we have to vigorously prosecute criminals who commit gun-related crimes.

According to the 2000 National Crime Victimization Survey, 533,470 victims of rape and sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault faced a perpetrator with a firearm. The Community Gun Violence Prosecution Program can play a major role in improving prosecution of criminals who commit these gun-related violent crimes by providing funding to hire prosecutors solely to prosecute firearm-related violent crimes. Providing funds to improve prosecution will not only bring felons to justice, but will also act as a deterrent to future crimes.

On Monday, it was announced that the Dickinson County, MI, prosecutors office will receive \$119,117 from the U.S. Department of Justice through CGVPP. The grant will be used to hire an assistant prosecutor who will devote

his or her time to prosecuting violent crimes committed with a firearm. This grant is the latest of several that prosecutors in Michigan, including Wayne, Muskegon and Ingham County prosecutors, have received to combat and deter gun-related crime. The efforts of prosecutors are critical to getting violent criminals off the streets. However we cannot forget that preventing gun violence ultimately requires that we enact sensible gun-safety legislation.

#### RECOGNIZING STEWART VERDERY

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize C. Stewart Verdery, General Counsel to the Assistant Republican Leader, DON NICKLES, and a staffer for the Senate Republican High Tech Task Force, of which I serve as Chair, for his dedicated service to the Senate.

After more than 6 years of serving the U.S. Senate, Stewart Verdery will depart today to join the team at Vivendi Universal here in Washington, D.C. He first served as counsel to my friend from Virginia, Senator JOHN WARNER. Stewart then served as counsel to the Senate Rules Committee, as counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee, and currently serves as General Counsel to Senator DON NICKLES. Let me take this opportunity to also thank Senator NICKLES for allowing Stewart to dedicate time to the High Tech Task Force and the broader goal of advancing constructive technology policy in the Senate.

As Chairman of the High Tech Task Force, I have come to know Stewart very well over the last year through his role as an advisor to Task Force and to the Republican leadership on technology issues. From the beginning, I have been impressed by his extraordinary command of complex technology issues and, perhaps more important, his ability to succinctly explain the issues to others. His advice and counsel were always sound and thoughtful, and through his effective and friendly manner, he instantly earned the respect of those with whom he worked.

Stewart Verdery played a key role in the transformation of the High Tech Task Force into a lead advocate for the technology-friendly policies in the Senate. With his assistance, my colleagues and I were better prepared to advance a positive technology policy agenda in the Senate last year, including: the passage of a clean, two-year Internet tax moratorium extension; passage of the upgraded Export Administration Act reauthorization; securing additional funding for anti-piracy prosecutions; and the hard-fought effort in the economic stimulus debate to make the Research and Development tax credit permanent, to provide enhanced expensing and to include the broadband tax credit.

I speak for many in the U.S. Senate when I say that we will miss Stewart and his talents. I wish Stewart, his

wife Jenny and their two young children, Isabelle and Chase, all the very best health and happiness in their future endeavors.

#### CAPITOL POLICE CHIEF JAMES VAREY

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, for the past 17 years, James Varey has served this institution with distinction, and I want to congratulate him and wish him the best in his retirement.

As the Capitol Chief of Police since May 2000, he has been the best of the best at one of the most difficult times in our history. The Capitol Police has never had to respond to the terrible problems we have seen in the last 6 months, be it terrorist threats, or anthrax attacks, but because of the strong leadership at the top, this institution has remained strong and open to the public. The force will miss Chief Varey's great advocacy on their behalf, which resulted in such new resources as the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. We will certainly miss the friendly spirit he has displayed to the entire Senate family. Most of all, the institution will miss his dedication and hard work.

#### CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, when I think of women who have put their stamp on history, I think of so many "Wonder Women" from Lucretia Mott to Eleanor Roosevelt to Sally Ride. While these names are recognizable to all of us, there are others—teachers, mothers, grandmothers—who are unsung heroines. They are women who greatly influenced our lives.

I have also come to admire our 19th-century counterparts—the women who were warriors on the front lines of the slavery, suffrage, and temperance battles. These early advocates of social justice continue to inspire us today. With few resources at their command, they were forced to use the power of ideas to affect change. The pen became a mighty sword; the voice, a thunderous cannon. They shook the 19th century.

Two of these women were contemporaries. They were both reared in New England, were married, had large families and overwhelming personal responsibilities. They were especially sensitive to injustice. Both changed the thinking of the nation on the dominant issues of their day. Beyond that, the similarities cease. One was from a prominent family, the daughter of a renowned clergyman. Unlike most women of her time, she was well-educated—a teacher and a writer. The other woman was a slave, unable to read or write. But she could speak, and did that quite well.

One was Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*—the woman whose writings did more to

arouse the conscience of the nation against slavery than anyone of her day. Harriet had seven children and a husband who was a hypochondriac. He took to his bed whenever there was a crisis in life, leaving her to manage on her own. In spite of the demands on her, Harriet managed to do what she loved most—to write. At the time, women with political opinions were not taken seriously, but that did not prevent her from expressing her ideas. She somehow found time to write—letters, articles, entire books—thirty-three literary works in all. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* broke all sales records of its day. Her success brought her to the attention of the President of the United States. It is said that Abraham Lincoln referred to her as "the little lady whose book started this big war."

Harriet recognized what women have known for centuries, that there are duties, intrusions, necessary things that lay claim to our time and thoughts. That was certainly true of Isabella Baumfree, the hearty slave woman who faced more than her share of adversity. She was quite a contrast to the very proper, primly dressed, and precisely spoken Mrs. Stowe.

By 1828, New York had abolished slavery. Around the same time, Isabella felt the call to preach. She was 46. She took the name Sojourner Truth because it was her intention to sojourn the land and proclaim the truth. Since she couldn't read the Bible, Isabella had it read to her, and she memorized large portions of it. She dictated her life's story and sold it to support herself. Wherever she spoke, her simple but dynamic message attracted crowds. She confounded the skeptics with plain truth and images from her own life, but critics hounded her. When told that there were threats to burn the auditorium where she was to speak, Sojourner replied, "Let them burn the building and I will speak upon the ashes."

Women of accomplishment have always been adaptive. They find a way when there is no way. They wear many hats. Being generalists, they come at problems from many different perspectives.

A good example of this can be seen in the life of a St. Louis lady by the name of Frances Gage, or Aunt Fanny as she was known in the women's movement. Aunt Fanny loved to give speeches at the women's conventions. She often told her audiences about an incident that had inspired her to become an activist on behalf of women. "At age ten, I made my first barrel. It was a beautiful barrel. The cooper who instructed me told my father, 'Fanny made that barrel and has done it quicker and better than any boy I have had after six months training.'" Fanny beamed with pride as she waited for her father's approval. Instead he shook his head and replied, "What a pity that you were not born a boy so that you could be good for something. Now, run into the house, child, and go back to your knitting."