

country to be the first one in my family to graduate from college, and then to obtain a graduate degree; to be an officer in the U.S. Army; and to be sworn-in three previous times to Presidential appointments. I am proud of every single job I have performed in service to our country.

Much has been written in the so-called "prestige press" about my previous work. Some of it even true! There were charges of "covert propaganda" by the office I headed in the 1980's: the Office of Public Diplomacy for Latin America and the Caribbean. Well, Mr. Secretary, today I have a confession to make about the work of that office. Now that the Statute of Limitations has expired, I think it is safe for me to confirm what so many on the other side suspected: Yes, the Office of Public Diplomacy for Latin America and the Caribbean was single-handedly responsible for the downfall of the Soviet Union!

There are so many things for which I am grateful today. Like two beautiful and intelligent young ladies who held the Bible. The person responsible for their being smart and pretty is here, their mother—Connie—my friend and former wife, and someone who made many sacrifices to help get me to where I am today. I don't think anyone has a more supportive ex-spouse than I do. Thank you, Connie.

And also here is another very special lady, Lourdes Ramos, who this past weekend accepted my proposal of marriage. Thank you, Lourdes. I look forward to our life together. It's a busy weekend.

Standing up here, I stand figuratively on the shoulders of all of you. Each of you is here because you had something to do with my being here, some more than others. As George Orwell said in *Animal Farm*, "All animals are equal but some are more equal than others."

I am not going to start naming the names of those who are more equal than others, but you know who you are. Since I can't possibly name each one, please consider yourselves properly singled out.

I do want to thank President Bush and Secretary Powell not only for selecting me to this incredibly exciting post, but for sticking with me in the face of unfair, anonymous or just plain false charges. I want to thank those who kept encouraging me to "Hang In There."

Believe me, I hung in there and I have the rope burns around my neck to prove it!

But how could I not persevere? I am an American. When the Founding Fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to create this experiment in democracy in 1776, they did not qualify their words. They didn't say they were going to reconsider if they ran into some resistance from the British. Well, I was not going to reconsider either.

How could I? My late parents were not quitters, and they are proud of my service to their adopted country. My mother was a poet and a free spirit. She was also practical and hard-working, a telephone operator and a union member.

I like to remind my Democrat friends that I come from a labor union family and am proud to have served the only U.S. President to have been president of a labor union: Ronald Reagan, the man who with his foreign policy vision and courage laid the groundwork for the end of the Evil Empire. And by the way, with the help of a lot of people who are in this room, such as Ambassador Kirkpatrick, Secretary Powell, and many others.

How could I quit? The memory of my father would not have let me. He left his home in Vienna in August of 1938, after being beaten up numerous times by Nazi thugs because of his Jewish religion. He rode 700 kilometers

on a motorcycle, driven by his best friend, a Catholic, to the Swiss border, and crossed the Alps on foot into Switzerland.

He made his way to France and joined the French Foreign Legion so he could fight the Nazis who had taken over his beloved Austria. The same Nazis who would later kill his parents, my grandparents, along with millions of other innocent victims.

More than a year after the French Army surrendered, he boarded a Portuguese freighter in Casablanca, headed for Jamaica and Cuba, and in 1942 he landed in Havana, where he found work, met my mother, started a family and hoped he could finally live in peace.

I would not be deterred, also because of the memory of my maternal grandfather, Juan Fleites. At the age of fifteen, exactly one hundred and seven years ago, in 1895, he joined the Cuban insurgents who were fighting for Cuba's independence from the Spanish. He was too young to serve as a warrior, so he became a medic's assistant and a stretcher-bearer, helping to carry the casualties off the battlefield and cleaning their wounds as best he could.

Secretary Powell is rightfully proud of his heritage and his accomplishments as a military officer and a civilian. But I am also proud, Mr. Secretary, that my grandfather served in Cuba's liberation army under a general named Antonio Maceo.

Maceo was the equivalent of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Cuba's insurrection. He was a black man and the descendant of slaves. Today we would call him Afro-Cuban. Over one hundred years ago, Cubans of all races willingly fought and died for their independence under the general they called "El Titan de Bronce," the Titan of Bronze, in honor of the color of his skin.

Antonio Maceo was the highest-ranking military officer of African heritage in this hemisphere until Colin Powell came along. And today I am proud to serve under another "Titan de Bronce."

Much has been made of my Cuban-American heritage. One group said that I couldn't possibly handle our relations with this hemisphere because I don't have the right temperament, by virtue of my ethnic background. They actually put that in writing. They said that I can't make rational decisions because of my ideology! Well, they are not saying that anymore, because I had them all arrested this morning!

Seriously, I think it is time that Cuban Americans cease to be the one ethnic group which the media still finds acceptable to denigrate. How could I not persevere to be appointed into what I think is the best job in the government? Where else can you work twice the number of hours as in the private sector, make half the money, and get public abuse in the process? As my father would have said: "Such a deal!"

I am part of a great team of professionals, both career and non-career. I am both excited and apprehensive about this assignment, because seldom have we faced as many challenges and opportunities simultaneously in the Americans as we do today.

This is a continent of contrasts: incredible wealth and unbearable poverty; freedom and repression; world class literature and high illiteracy; abundance and injustice. It is a continent where peasants and workers and laborers work from dawn to dusk, but reach the end of their lives in misery. What is the reason for that? It is not for lack of resources.

This continent has all the natural and human resources necessary to achieve levels of development like those of Europe or North America.

The creative forces of all the population must be allowed to flourish. Governing elites

must encourage, not discourage, individual initiative. People must be given the freedom to produce and then to enjoy the fruits of their work.

There is too much false nationalism and not enough commitment to national advancement. Those who keep the masses of the people from climbing the social and economic ladder are condemning their nations to perpetual underdevelopment.

We must battle a number of threats all at once: terrorism, drug trafficking, common crime, disease, ignorance, illiteracy, poverty, apathy, racism, despotism, selfishness. As Secretary Powell mentioned—corruption. Corruption is the single largest obstacle to development in the developing world. Those who steal from the public purse are doing as much harm to their country as a foreign invader would.

Whether it is the policeman who takes a \$2 bribe to tear up a traffic ticket or the Cabinet official who takes \$2 million to rig a government contract, they are doing untold damage to their countries.

But in adversity there is opportunity. For each financial collapse there is the possibility of recovery. For every war there is the prospect of peace. The Mexican patriot, Benito Juarez, said "El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz." Peace, he said, is achieved through respect for the rights of others. And when governments and persons follow Juarez's advice and respect the civil, political and economic rights of others, we will have peace.

The U.S. cannot solve all the problems of this Hemisphere. But we can help those who help themselves.

Finally, as I said earlier, questions were raised about my ideology. If you want to know what my ideology is, you need not go far. Just drive a few blocks from here to the Jefferson Memorial.

Inscribed in the largest letters at the highest point of the inside of the monument is a quotation from that great Virginian and first Secretary of State: "I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man." That is where my American ideology is founded.

As Thomas Jefferson's words remind us, our struggle against tyranny is not finished. Since September 11, exactly six months ago today, we are more determined and indivisible than at any time since World War II. Whether they are terrorists in Afghanistan or Colombia, or despots in Baghdad or Havana, anyone trying to impose tyranny over the mind of man has earned our eternal hostility.

Thank you all for sharing this very important day with me and my family.

God Bless you and God Bless this great country of ours.

ARSENIC-TREATED RESIDENTIAL-USE LUMBER PROHIBITION ACT

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to share with the Senate a letter I received from a 13-year-old named Kevin from St. Cloud, FL. It is a town in Osceola County, near Orlando, FL, in the center of our State. Kevin writes this letter, and I will read part of it:

I'm 13 years old and a Boy Scout of America. I would like to address you about a problem in a local park, that may be a problem in other parks. The park near my house has arsenic in the wood.

Please help with this quickly. I have a little brother who plays in the park.

That is from a 13-year-old writing to a Senator.

Kevin, I hear you. I hope my colleagues do, too.

Kevin is addressing a problem many families and communities all across our Nation now find themselves confronting. They are all asking the question: Is my local park safe from the arsenic-treated wood which, when the rains come, leach the arsenic from the playground wood into the soil? Should I tell my children they cannot play in the park because of the wood that is treated as a preservative with arsenic?

What I found is that local officials, county commissioners, city commissioners all across Florida and many other States have raised similar questions about the use of arsenic to treat wood in playgrounds and backyard decks. The fact is, none of these communities has been given any clear guidance of what to do about arsenic-treated wood in their parks, in their backyards, and neither have the parents of kids such as Kevin. That is why I wanted to share Kevin's letter with the Senate today. The Senate has an opportunity, after more than two decades of delay, to finally ban the use of arsenic-treated wood and to provide parents and communities and local officials the information needed so they can make intelligent decisions about safety.

While the Environmental Protection Agency recently announced a voluntary phaseout of arsenic-treated wood, this agreement with the wood-preserving industry does not go far enough. For one, it is only a voluntary agreement, reminiscent of a voluntary agreement 20 years ago that the industry did not honor. Remember, we are talking about arsenic which can cause cancer and other serious illnesses, which is what this little boy from St. Cloud, FL, is writing me about because his little brother plays in the park.

Many European countries recognized the dangers long ago. It is time we get serious about a process we know can be harmful to children and consumers. The EPA has studied and negotiated this issue to death. Yet the best deal for consumers that they can come up with is a voluntary phaseout. Also, the EPA agreement with the wood-preserving industry fails to provide enough guidance to consumers, fails to provide the guidance to parents and local government officials about what to do with all that arsenic-treated wood on those playgrounds about which little Kevin is writing.

I urge my colleagues to join me in enacting legislation I filed to permanently ban this potentially harmful product. It is S. 1963.

TRIBUTE TO MARVIN SEDWAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the official opening of the Marvin Sedway Middle School in Las Vegas, NV. This state-of-the-art facility provides an enduring tribute to one of Nevada's most esteemed and courageous political figures.

Marvin Sedway was a man with a ferocious spirit. His language was rough

and his determination was fearless, but in everything that he did, Marvin was dedicated to the betterment of Nevada. As a State assemblyman he demonstrated an unwavering dedication to the children of his State and made their education his top priority.

Marvin Sedway moved to Las Vegas from New York City when he was 13 years old. In 1946 he graduated from Las Vegas High School and then he attended the University of Nevada at Reno. After completing his professional education at Pacific University in 1954, Marvin worked as an optometrist for almost 40 years. Throughout his career, Marvin Sedway's compassion and generosity were evident. It was widely known that Marvin volunteered thousands of hours to serve handicapped and underprivileged children who could not afford proper care.

Even before his election to the Nevada State Assembly in 1983, Marvin was an integral part of the Nevada political scene. In 1958 Marvin was a member of the Democratic Party Reform Commission, and in 1968 he became the State chairman of the "Humphrey for President" campaign. Marvin was also selected by several Nevadan Governors, including my good friend Governor Mike O'Callaghan, to serve on various State boards. He was a member of the Governor's Task Force on Rural Health Emergency Services and an advisory board member for Clark County Community College. In addition, he served as secretary of the State Board of Optometric Examiners and president of the Clark County Mental Health Society.

As a member of the Nevada State Assembly, Marvin gained prominence across the State for his service as chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, which allowed him to determine which bills would survive and which bills would not move forward. Marvin used his coveted position to advocate for those who often are voiceless including welfare mothers and low-income workers and families. In addition, while many others shied away from unpopular tax increases, Marvin's courage led him to support increases that would fund the State's expanding services and social programs.

Marvin's greatest cause was improving the education of Nevada's school children. He was a great believer in the importance of a strong public education system and continuously pushed for increasing funds for State schools. Throughout his 8 years in the Nevada State Assembly and even before then, he worked to ensure that Nevada's children had the resources to improve their lives, receive a solid education, and fulfill the American dream.

When Marvin Sedway died of lung cancer on July 7, 1990 at the age of 61, Nevada lost a great leader. But as the doors of the Marvin Sedway Middle School officially open, we can celebrate his legacy as a public servant committed to education. Thousands of young Nevadans will be educated in

this remarkable facility, fulfilling Marvin's hopes and ambitions for Nevada's children.

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 in August 1994 in Sioux City, IA. Two gay men were attacked when two intruders broke into their residence. The assailants, Anthony L. Smith, 17, and Henry White, 18, were charged with first-degree burglary and second-degree criminal mischief under the State hate crime statute.

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.

RETIREMENT SECURITY ADVICE ACT OF 2002

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I am adding my name as a co-sponsor of the Retirement Security Advice Act of 2002, S. 1978, introduced by my good friend from Arkansas, Senator TIM HUTCHINSON. I do so, and submit this statement for the RECORD, because the bill holds important implications for small businesses in this country and the millions of Americans they employ.

In 1996, we created the Savings Incentive Match Plans for Employees SIMPLE, as a pension-plan option for small firms in this country. The goal was a simple one: provide a pension plan with low administrative costs for employers so they can offer pension benefits to encourage employees to save for their retirement. I am pleased that these plans have become quite popular, and together with the other pension simplifications and improvements enacted in the last five years, they have contributed to better access to pension benefits by small businesses and their employees.

Greater retirement savings, however, have raised new and complex issues for many employees who have seen their pension accounts grow substantially. As the Ranking Member of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have heard many constituents raise difficult questions in this area: What are appropriate investments for my personal circumstances and risk tolerance? Should I buy stocks, bonds, annuities, or something