

house resource materials in science and technology to assist in studies of Egypt and the Mediterranean region, and it will sponsor studies of the region's historical and cultural heritage. At the same time, it will serve as a major depository library, and it will take its place alongside the world's major scholarly institutions, like the Library of Congress, in using technology to make available to scholars the whole range of information resources, wherever they may be found.

The stunning architectural design of the building that houses the library is congruent with the library's mission. It is, as Mrs. Mubarak has put it, "a great dazzling building," "a fourth pyramid," its "inclined round shape similar to the sun rising at dawn." Yet it is simple in concept: a circle sloping toward the Mediterranean Sea, partly submerged in water. A wall of Aswan granite, with calligraphy representing inscriptions from the world's civilizations, surrounds the building, which is connected to Alexandria's famous Corniche by an elevated passageway.

This magnificent project could not have been completed without the generous support and leadership of President Hosni Mubarak, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, and the Egyptian people, and it has benefited enormously from the support of UNESCO, of many governments and non-governmental organizations, and of committed men and women around the world. I am especially pleased that the sister-city partnership joining Baltimore and Alexandria has contributed to the library through a committee called the Baltimore Friends of Bibliotheca Alexandrina; under the chairmanship of Dr. Raouf Boules, who came to this country from Alexandria and who serves as Assistant Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Towson University in Maryland, the committee has been very successful in collecting books and raising funds for the Library.

The Ancient Library of Alexandria "was and is one of the greatest and most inspiring creations of the human intellect," as Mrs. Mubarak has observed. The New Library of Alexandria will surely carry forward that tradition. On the day of its inauguration we celebrate the New Library, we pay tribute to those who have made its establishment possible, and we express deep gratitude for the contributions it will surely make to greater knowledge and understanding worldwide.

IRAQ'S MISSILES

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the danger of Iraq's development of medium range ballistic missiles in violation of United Nations Resolution 687. I recently chaired a hearing of the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs. Two of our witnesses were weapon inspectors in Iraq during

the 1990s as part of United National Special Commission, UNSCOM, Inspection Teams. Their candid statements painted a dark picture and outlined some difficult decisions we have to make.

When the gulf war ended, and the United National Security Council passed Resolution 687, Iraq agreed to destroy, remove or render harmless all ballistic missiles, related parts, and repair and production facilities with a range greater than 150 kilometers. Further, Iraq agreed to not develop or acquire them in the future. The dedicated men and women of UNSCOM and the International Atomic Energy Agency ferreted out and destroyed a large share of Iraq's prohibited weapons and related infrastructure in the 1990s. Despite the remarkable job they did, significant disarmament tasks and compliance issues continued through UNSCOM's departure from Iraq in December 1998.

Before the gulf war, Iraq had a variety of missile programs. These programs were more than missile components and hardware. Iraq had a trained team of missile experts, capable of reverse engineering a Soviet SCUD missile and moving into indigenous production of an Iraqi version 2 years after initial acquisition. Their indigenous production capability depended upon low reliability, low technology, low safety, and a sophisticated foreign assistance and supplier network.

Iraq has retained a great deal of this knowledge. Its team remains largely intact working on permitted U.N. missile programs, which provide cover for proscribed missile development. The liquid-fueled Al-Samoud missile most likely is capable of exceeding the range threshold set by U.N. resolutions and is widely believed to be a precursor for longer-range missiles. The short-range Abhail-100 missile program is providing Iraq with a solid-propellant infrastructure and other important technologies that could be applied to a longer-range missile in the future.

At what point do allowed programs fall under the heading of related parts or production capability for longer-range missiles? I think the answer in Iraq's case is, now.

Likewise, Iraq maintains expertise in converting aircraft to unmanned aerial vehicles, lately demonstrated in modifications to L-29 trainer aircraft. These unmanned aerial vehicles could be used to attack Israel or American forces in the region.

Iraq has persistently deceived, evaded, and concealed its weapon programs. In spite of this, UNSCOM believed that it had accounted for the elimination of all but a handful of Iraq's SCUD missiles. So why are we faced with this on-going threat to American security? It is true that Iraq was able to hide some assets. More importantly, though, Iraq was able to maintain its technical expertise and industrial base under the guise of U.N. permitted missile programs.

Iraq built its missile programs over a number of years with assistance from companies in many countries. We must work with our allies and international partners to contain the missile program. We must get inspectors back into Iraq and re-establish the U.N. monitoring program, and we must keep Saddam Hussein bottled up and force him to confront obstacles in every direction. An U.N. inspection team with full international support and access can complicate, constrain, and slow Iraq's clandestine efforts and give us a better understanding of what Iraq can do. But an inspection team, at its best, can contain or manage, not eliminate, the threat.

We are now faced with the possibility that Saddam Hussein could deploy weapons of mass destruction against his neighbors. We also must consider under what conditions would Hussein give a biological or chemical agent or short-range ballistic missile to a terrorist group? This January marked the 11th anniversary since the start of the gulf war. As the war on terrorism evolves, we cannot forget our past attempts, successes, and failures in Iraq.

President Bush is right to continue to make Iraq an issue for the international community. We will need international support if we are going to have an effective strategy for eliminating Saddam Hussein as a threat to world peace.

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 November 1997 in Asheville, NC. A gay man was assaulted with a deadly weapon. The assailant, Jeremi Dwayne Milling, 16, was sentenced to five years in prison for conspiracy to commit armed robbery, assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, and attempted armed robbery. Mr. Milling said that he targeted the victim because he was gay.

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.

U.S. ARMY STRYKER COMBAT VEHICLE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to address the importance of the Army's Stryker

combat vehicle, what used to be called the Interim Armored Vehicle, being developed at Anniston Army Depot.

The Stryker is a new generation family of highly transportable wheeled combat vehicles capable of rapidly deploying anywhere in the world. The Stryker vehicles roll onto a C-130 aircraft and roll off ready to fight anywhere and anytime including complex and urban warfare contingencies. They are lethal, survivable and will be engaged in the War on Terrorism in the months to come.

If they were available today, Stryker vehicles would be deployed in the mountains of Afghanistan and ably assisting in the elimination of al-Qaida and other enemies of this country. They would be providing ground-based firepower and protection for our soldiers on the frontlines.

The Stryker family embodies Army Transformation. It is the foundation of the Army's Interim Brigade Combat Teams that will be the spearhead of most conflicts envisioned in the next decade. The Army intends on procuring 2,131 Strykers and this Congress must do everything it can to ensure the Army is able to deliver on its promise to our soldiers.

Let me tell you, we cannot get these vehicles in the soldiers' hands fast enough. As it is, the Army and the joint venture designing and developing the Stryker family have done an incredible job delivering the initial vehicles this past February less than a year after the start of work. I believe such a rapid delivery may be unprecedented in modern times for a military program of this scope. The Army and the Joint Venture are to be commended.

In the fiscal year 2003 defense budget, the President has requested \$812 million in procurement and \$124 million in research and development for the Stryker vehicle. I hope this Congress will fully support this request and throw its support behind a program critical to our national security today and tomorrow.

The Army recently named the vehicles Stryker in honor of two fallen enlisted soldiers who died 20 years apart but shared the same name. Both won the Medal of Honor. Specialist 4th Class Robert Stryker died in Vietnam when he threw himself onto a claymore mine as it detonated thus saving the lives of his comrades nearby. Stuart Stryker died in World War II when he led a platoon into an assault on Nazi headquarters near the end of the war. Though he was killed in the raid, three members of an American bombing crew were rescued from the building.

We should not let those who serve this great Nation down. We must support ably and strongly the Stryker combat vehicle program.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I submit this statement to explain my absence today on the rollcall vote regarding the

amendment offered by my good friend from Nevada, Senator REID. Unfortunately, I am absent for medical reasons and was unable to vote today. However, I wanted to express my support for Senator REID's amendment and had I been here, my intention to vote not to table the amendment.

Senator REID's amendment just made sense. This is a debate over energy legislation and it is logical to limit Senator FEINSTEIN's amendment to energy derivatives. If this body feels there is a need to extend the provisions in Senator FEINSTEIN's amendment to metals, which I am not convinced that we need to do, then we should take that issue up at the appropriate time and in the appropriate vehicle. For that reason, I would have voted not to table Senator REID's amendment.

DAY OF SILENCE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, students have fallen silent in schools all across the country today to bring attention to the discrimination and harassment of our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender, GLBT, youth.

The voices that won't be heard today belong to the participants of a national project called the Day of Silence.

The Day of Silence was conceived more than 6 years ago by Maria Pulzetti, then a student at the University of Virginia, after she wrote a paper on nonviolent protest and grassroots organizing. It encourages students to take a nine-hour pledge of silence to represent the silence that GLBT students face because of harassment, discrimination and prejudice at their schools.

Since the first-ever Day of Silence at the University of Virginia in 1996, the event has grown in size each year. This year, thousands of students will be participating from more than 1,776 middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities in 49 States, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, including at least 136 schools in my State of California. This year's effort will easily be the largest in its history.

Instead of speaking, participants of the Day of Silence will hand out cards that explain why they have chosen not to talk. The cards read:

Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence, a national youth movement protesting the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies. My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by harassment, prejudice, and discrimination. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward fighting these injustices. Think about the voices you are not hearing today. What are you going to do to end the silence?

Some participants will also be wearing t-shirts that spell out why they have chosen not to speak today. Others will wear buttons or stickers. And still others will offer ribbons to those who are not ready to take a vow of complete silence but who want to show their support.

In some cases, teachers will even join the effort by taping their lessons for the day, screening movies, or writing on the blackboard instead of speaking to their classes.

In fact, students who have organized the event in the past say that the broad participation of their friends and teachers has elevated the Day of Silence from "a bunch of gay kids complaining about discrimination" to a formidable student-led movement for civil rights.

But, regardless of which participant you ask, they all agree that they can speak loudest by not saying a word. And, even though they will be silent, their message will get across loud and clear.

I would also like to give special recognition to two California students that have helped organize this year's Day of Silence:

Sumiko Braun, 17, of Carson, CA, is the California State Organizer. She is currently a senior at the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, and is also the founder and president of her school's Gay-Straight Alliance. Although the Gay-Straight Alliance has faced much adversity, the group has remained one of the most active on the school's campus.

Nikira Hernandez, 15, of Santa Cruz, CA, is one of the National Team Co-Advisors. She currently attends Santa Cruz High School, and is a member of her school's Rainbow Alliance. Before organizing Santa Cruz High School's first Day of Silence last spring, Nikira said her school's Rainbow Alliance counted about half a dozen students as members—and they weren't very motivated. Then, when more than 200 people fell silent on their behalf last year, she couldn't believe how much her life changed. She said, "Seeing how many allies we had made me feel much more accepted at my school."

I am encouraged that these two talented and dedicated young ladies have taken the initiative to help end the silence of GLBT students that, unfortunately, has become the norm in our Nation's schools. These outstanding Californians are not only giving support to other young people who are participating in the Day of Silence effort, they are helping to make their schools and their communities more accepting in the process.

The effects of today's silence will last much longer than just one day. This experience will offer students an opportunity to think about how powerful silencing can be and to focus on how they can make their own voices stronger.

Long after this day has ended, I hope students will continue to speak out against discrimination and harassment so that everyone can feel accepted at their schools, and we can overcome the forces that impose silence on our youth.