

charged. These are very tragic events. In addition to prosecuting the criminals who commit these horrific crimes, we can do more to prevent them, we should close the gun show loophole so that it is more difficult for criminals to gain access to guns.

In 1994, Congress passed the Brady Law, which requires Federal Firearm Licensees to perform criminal background checks on gun buyers. However, a loophole in this law allows unlicensed private gun sellers to sell firearms at gun shows without conducting a background check.

In April of last year, Senator JACK REED introduced the Gun Show Background Check Act which would close this loophole in the law. The Reed bill, which is supported by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, extends the Brady Bill background check requirement to all sellers of firearms at gun shows. I cosponsored that bill because I believe it is critical that we do all we can to prevent guns from getting into the hands of criminals and terrorists. I urge the Senate to debate and pass this common sense gun-safety legislation.

CELEBRATING OVER A HALF CENTURY OF SERVICE TO VETERANS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I am pleased today to say a few words about the Paralyzed Veterans of America, PVA to those of us who work on veterans matters, in connection with the organization's PVA Awareness Week, which takes place next week.

PVA began in February 1947, when delegates from seven groups of paralyzed veterans from around the country met at the Hines VA Hospital in Chicago, IL. Those veterans agreed to form a national organization to address the needs of spinal cord injured veterans. They believed that veterans with spinal cord injuries would have the strongest voice in speaking for veterans with such injuries and for all who were similarly disabled, a belief that has been borne out over the years. The original members of PVA also emphasized the need both to conduct research to find a cure for spinal cord injury while, at the same time, providing for the basic, immediate needs of spinal cord injured veterans.

Since its inception, PVA has dedicated itself to the well being of some of America's most catastrophically disabled veterans as it has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of its members, veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury, SCI, or dysfunction. PVA, which received a Congressional charter as a veterans service organization in 1971, is a dynamic, broad-based organization with more than 40 chapters and sub-chapters nationwide and nearly 20,000 members. In addition to its Washington, D.C. headquarters, PVA operates 58 service offices around the country to serve the needs of all veterans

seeking Department of Veterans Affairs' claims and benefits.

PVA is a leading advocate for quality health care not only for spinal cord injured veterans, but for all other veterans as well. They also continue to press for research and education addressing spinal cord injury and dysfunction.

PVA's commitment to research can be seen in its sponsorship of the Spinal Cord Research Foundation which supports research to alleviate, and ultimately end, medical and functional consequences of paralysis; its endowment in 1980 of a Professorship in SCI Medicine at Stanford University; its creation of the Spinal Cord Injury Education and Training Foundation to support innovative education and training programs; and its role in establishing the PVA-EPVA Center for Neuroscience and Regeneration Research at Yale University along with the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Yale University, with the goal of restoration of function in people with spinal cord dysfunction.

PVA also coordinates the activities of two coalitions of professional, payer, and consumer groups, the Consortium for Spinal Cord Medicine and the Multiple Sclerosis Council, which develop clinical practice guidelines defining standards of care for people with spinal cord injury and multiple sclerosis.

While PVA's Congressional charter requires it to devote substantial resources to representing veterans in their claims for benefits from VA, the PVA Veterans Benefits Department goes above and beyond the call of duty, providing assistance and representation, without charge, to veterans with a spinal cord dysfunction and other veterans seeking health care and other benefits for which they are eligible. This assistance is offered through a network of PVA national service officers across the nation who assist veterans in making claims for benefits and monitor medical care at local VA medical facilities. PVA's national service officers assist claimants through every stage of the VA claims process and also offer representation to veterans who have claims pending before the Social Security Administration.

PVA's advocacy does not stop at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. It has one of the most active presences at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, arguing cases that have set precedents that have helped thousands, if not millions, of veterans and their families.

Other key PVA programs include its Architecture Program, which plays an important role in the lives of severely disabled veterans with quality design and construction of affordable and accessible housing; its Health Analysis Program, which keeps a constant eye on the performance of the VA health care system as well as other health care systems in the public and private

sector; and its Sports and Recreation Program which is dedicated to promoting a range of activities for its members and other people with disabilities, with special emphasis on activities that enhance lifetime health and fitness, including through co-sponsorship of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

For 16 years, PVA has co-authored an important, highly respected policy guide for the Congress, The Independent Budget: A Comprehensive Policy Document Created by Veterans for Veterans, with the Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars which addresses the needs of veterans on issues ranging from health care to benefits and the resources required to meet these needs in the VA budget every year.

PVA's Government Relations staff is well-known here on Capitol Hill. Its Advocacy Program is a leading voice for civil rights and opportunities that maximize independence of individuals who have experienced spinal cord injury or disease, or other severe disabilities. PVA played an important role in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It continues its advocacy as an active member of the Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities. Its Legislation Program staff is directly involved in every budget, legislative, and policy initiative affecting veterans under consideration in the Congress every year.

Over the years, I have relied heavily on PVA members in my State of West Virginia to keep me informed about the issues so critical to veterans with spinal cord injuries. I am particularly grateful for the wisdom and counsel of my friend Randy Pleva, President of WV PVA and one of PVA's National vice presidents. I do not know a more dedicated and compassionate advocate for paralyzed veterans.

Those of us who work with PVA every day recognize the dedication and expertise that this organization brings to Capitol Hill. The organization is one of the top national veterans' service organizations in terms of expertise and dedication. We must acknowledge the extreme sacrifices that the members of their organization have made in service to this country and honor the fact that PVA members continue that service on behalf of veterans and all Americans with disabilities.

At a time when this country has soldiers deployed to far-off lands in defense of freedom, it is important that we recognize these men and women who have served this country in the past and continue to serve our nation's veterans today. I look forward to a continuing partnership with PVA to provide for the needs of veterans, past, present, and future.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam 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 August 18, 1994 in Indianola, OH. Four lesbians women were attacked by a female teen who, encouraged by a crowd of onlookers, yelled anti-gay epithets. The assailant, Shanika Campbell, 18, was charged with four counts of assault in connection with the incident.

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.

KOREAN WAR COMMEMORATION

Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I rise to respectfully ask my fellow colleagues join me in honoring the men and women who so bravely and fiercely fought for freedom and democracy during the Korean War and those who fight for these same freedoms today.

This week at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, the often "forgotten war" will take center stage as an expected crowd of more than 10,000 will gather today at the Marine Corps Base to partake in various commemorative activities. The commemoration will begin with a full honors ceremony and address by Navy Secretary Gordon R. England and will include flyovers by vintage aircraft, modern attack helicopters, F/A-18 Hornets, AV-8B Harriers and A-10 Thunderbolts as well as a parachute jump by the Army's Golden Knights. The events, set to end next year, are part of the military's three-year commemoration of the 1950-1953 War.

On June 25, 1950, eight divisions and an armored brigade of 90,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army attacked in three columns across the 38th parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea. The following day, President Harry S Truman sanctioned the use of American air and naval forces below the 38th parallel. 37 long months later on July 27, 1953, an Armistice was signed and the fighting ended. In all, America lost 33,686 of its best and brightest. However, these men lost their lives safeguarding something bigger than any of us in this room, democracy.

Today, many veterans of the Korean War feel as if their sacrifice is forgotten. They believe that their place in history has been nearly erased. I urge my fellow colleagues and my fellow Americans to remember and embrace what these men and women were fighting to defend fifty years ago in North

and South Korea. They were protecting the notions of freedom and democracy our forefathers so bravely brought to this great land nearly 226 years ago. In many ways, our soldiers at home and abroad are fighting to protect these same ideals today. In 1950, communists in North Korea, China, and Russia threatened to take away people's innate right to sleep under a blanket of freedom. Today, terrorists from around the globe are attempting to do the same. We must never forget those who have fought and died to ensure that our way of life continues. I applaud the efforts of the Department of Defense and the nearly 5000 partners around the world for conducting this three-year commemoration ceremony. History and the people who played such a vital part in it should never be forgotten for what they accomplished and what they sacrificed. As Winston Churchill stated, "Out of the depths of sorrow and sacrifice will be born again the glory of mankind."

Finally, I would like to pay a special tribute to the more than 57,000 Kentuckians who served in the military during the Korean War era, many who undoubtedly fought on the front lines. I am extremely proud to know that so many Kentuckians were willing to fight for all that this great country stands for. God Bless America.

RECOGNITION OF DR. KATHY HUDSON'S SERVICE TO NIH

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the exemplary work of Dr. Kathy Hudson, who after 10 years is leaving government service. For the last 7 years Dr. Hudson has served with distinction as the Director of the Office of Policy, Planning and Communications and the Assistant Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health. While at the Institute, she has been responsible for communications, government relations, program planning, and education activities.

Dr. Hudson has provided focus and leadership in numerous areas for the Institute. She has played a particularly important leadership role in public policy and public affairs for the Human Genome Project, the international effort to decipher the human genetic code and apply the results to improving human health.

She has led efforts to identify barriers such as genetic discrimination that could impede the fair and equitable application of genetic information to public health and has led development of policies to protect privacy and prevent genetic discrimination. In his regard, she was instrumental in the development of an Executive Order signed in February 2000 that banned discrimination in Federal employment based on genetic information. She has also provided exceptional technical advice to my staff and many others in drafting legislation on genetic non-

discrimination. I look forward to seeing that important legislation enacted soon.

Dr. Hudson received her B.A. in biology at Carleton College in Minnesota; her Masters in microbiology from the University of Chicago; and the Ph.D. in molecular biology from the University of California, Berkeley. Before joining the NIH, Dr. Hudson was a senior policy analyst in the office of the Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health and Human Services. She advised the assistant secretary on national health and science policy issues involving NIH. Prior to that, Dr. Hudson worked in the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment as a congressional science fellow.

Through her signal contributions to social policy and to the Nation's health, Dr. Hudson's work has exemplified the best of government service and the difference in our Nation's well being that a dedicated scientist can make. I wish Dr. Hudson all the best in her new venture as the Director of the Genetics and Public Policy Center at the Johns Hopkins University, and on behalf of the Congress and the country, thank her for her outstanding government service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF FRESNO COUNTY SUPERVISOR, JUAN ARAMBULA, RECIPIENT OF THE 2002 ROSE ANN VUICH LEADERSHIP AWARD

- Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I rise today to bring to the Senate's attention the exemplary achievements and outstanding service of Juan Arambula, Supervisor in Fresno County, CA.

Supervisor Juan Arambula, now serving his second term as supervisor, is to receive the Rose Ann Vuich Leadership Award for his outstanding leadership and service. Supervisor Arambula is most deserving of this special recognition and the outpouring of admiration from all throughout the community.

In his many years of public service as Past President of Fresno Unified School District Board of Trustees, former member of the California School Boards Association Board of Directors and now as Supervisor for Fresno County, he has maintained a sense of honor, purpose and teamwork that not only resonated on the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, but throughout surrounding communities.

Supervisor Arambula serves Fresno County and his constituents with great distinction. I am honored to congratulate and pay tribute to him and I encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing Supervisor Arambula much continued success in his public service career.●