

met. To me, the best way to create this trust is to share something precious—a personal story or belief. In music, this process of sharing deepens the harmonies, but more broadly this process starts a true dialogue and strengthens our common world heritage. This festival is about that dialogue.

In the end, the goal of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, and the Silk Road Project is the same: to draw on the wisdom of all of our cultures to enrich our world one encounter at a time.

REMARKS OF SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY
OPENING CEREMONY—FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

Thank you, Mr. Kurin, for that generous introduction. It is an honor to be here this morning with all the exceptionally talented artists and the visionary sponsors of the Silk Road Project—the cornerstone of this year's Folklife Festival. The Folklife Festival is one of our capital city's most beloved traditions. Each year, it brings the customs and cultures of a unique region or ethnic population alive with music and dance, craft and culinary wonders.

I commend Lawrence Small, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. He is a dynamic leader of the Smithsonian, and I commend him for the success of this inspiring project.

It is a privilege to be here with Secretary of State, Colin Powell who is an effective advocate for the United States in these difficult times. He is skillful in the pursuit of peace across the world and I commend him for all he continues to do.

I also join in welcoming His Highness the Aga Khan who was an early supporter of the Silk Road Project. He is an impressive leader for our time and I commend all that he has done, especially in the field of education and cultural exchange. Now, more than ever, his voice is one that needs to be acknowledged and understood. We are honored to have him with us today.

It is especially important that the Smithsonian has embarked on this remarkable celebration of the cultural richness and diversity of the Silk Road countries. Centuries ago, the Silk Road trade routes gave birth to an unprecedented and extraordinary exchange of cultural and economic traditions. Today, more than ever, it is essential to remember the incredible diversity of products and ideas that have emerged from Central Asia.

The Mall is truly the Main Street of our nation's capital city. Today, it brings us exhibits and cultural performances representing the Silk Road countries, from Italy to India, Mongolia and Japan. There is something here for everyone to enjoy. And that is, after all, what the Folklife Festival is about. It is a starting point for exploration and education, and it is always about entertainment.

The Silk Road's artistic demonstrations and musical performances will bring the Mall to new life over the next several weeks.

We are especially privileged to have with us one of our nation's most preeminent artists. Yo-yo Ma is a musician who has won both critical and popular acclaim for his virtuosity. He has also won the hearts and minds of millions of people throughout the world, with his outreach and education projects.

From Sesame Street to Carnegie Hall, he has brought music to life, and life to music. He is the tireless and seemingly unstoppable energy behind youth orchestras across the country, and projects as musically diverse as the memorable "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and his energetic Appalachian strings recordings.

He starred on David Letterman two nights ago, and today he is with us—on America's Main Street—to celebrate the beginning of the Folklife Festival. He inspires each of us to do all we can to embrace and celebrate diverse peoples and cultures through education and understanding.

After the tragic events of September 11th, it is more important than ever for each of us to understand and embrace new ideas and cultures. Today, we continue this journey of understanding with Yo-Yo Ma.

He has used his magnificent genius to bring the entire world closer together. He inspires people everywhere to seek peace and reconciliation, and he has done it all with his magical cello.

He is here with the performers of the Silk Road Ensemble and I am honored to introduce them now.

REMARKS AT THE OPENING OF THE SILK ROAD
FESTIVAL—SECRETARY COLIN L. POWELL,
SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL ON THE
MALL, WASHINGTON, DC

Secretary Powell: Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you so very much, Richard, for that kind introduction, and my congratulations to the Smithsonian for putting on this 36th Annual Folklife Festival. With each year's Folklife Festival, the Mall becomes a living cultural exhibition, not only for the citizens of this city, but for the citizens of the world who come to Washington, D.C. In the words of former Smithsonian Secretary S. Dillon Ripley, "The Festival brings the museum out of its glass case and into real life."

I want to thank you also, Yo-Yo Ma and your Silk Road Project, to the Aga Khan for his Trust for Culture, to Lawrence Small of the Smithsonian, for all the wonderful work they have done to make this such an exciting and important event. And I am very proud that the State Department had such a role to play in it, and some of my leaders from the Department who had a role to play are here. Under Secretary of State Charlotte Beers and Assistant Secretary of State Beth Jones, and I think Assistant Secretary of State Pat Harrison are here, and they also are deserving of your recognition.

In fact, we did have some diplomatic challenges in making this happen. The two yurts that are here, tents that you will see in due course, they had to be custom made to conform to American laws for access to the handicapped. And so our embassy in Kazakhstan worked closely with the Kazakh Government to make sure they were up to standard—and then helped ship them here in time for this Festival. So we are not only culturally pure, we are OSHA-pure as well. I want you to know that.

We have seen so many talented people this morning, and we have had such wonderful speakers. And I, as always, enjoyed Yo-Yo Ma. But Yo-Yo, I have to say the throat singers might have had a slight edge on you. It was marvelous, and I haven't heard throat singing like that since my last congressional appearance. And it was before the Senate, not the House.

But what these artists have done for you this morning so far is they have painted a marvelous picture of the old Silk Road and the central place that the Silk Road played in our own history, our own culture, and in our own civilization.

Listening to this morning's speakers, you can almost see Marco Polo trekking eastward toward lands unknown to Europeans, or hear the sounds of a merchant caravan heading west with its cargo of silks and spices.

The Silk Road of old was the main link between the civilizations of the east, Central Asia, and Europe. From Europe, the products

and ideas of Central and East Asia then spread to the New World of the Americas. All of our peoples were enriched by the exchange of goods, the exchange of ideas, and the exchange of cultures.

But the Silk Road is more than a subject for magazines and museums. It is more than an image of past glories. The nations of Central Asia are once again joining the nations at either end of the Silk Road on a path to a better future for all. There is far to go, and the region's security, stability, and prosperity depend on critical economic and political reforms. But the Silk Road is once again a living reality, as the over 350 artists and craftspeople from 20 nations here testify.

Now, in our new age of globalization, we are restoring the linkages and the interchanges that once made the Silk Road so rich and so vital. We have been making up for lost time. Our political, economic, diplomatic, and security contacts have increased with all the nations along the central part of the Silk Road, boosted by our cooperation especially as we came together in the campaign against terrorism following 9/11 last year.

But even more important, our cultural and institutional ties have also grown. We are once again exchanging ideas and learning about cultures with all of the countries and peoples along the Silk Road.

The links between our peoples are the most vital and enduring elements of our ties. Festivals like the Smithsonian Silk Road Festival play a major role in helping us get reacquainted and start learning from each other once again. As the theme of this exhibition reminds us, it's all about "Connecting cultures and creating trust."

This Festival, like the future, stretches ahead before us. So without further delay, and with sincere thanks for your patience, let me now light the lamp that will allow us to embark on our journey along the Silk Road. Thank you very, very much.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I was unavailable to vote on the afternoon of July 10, and all of July 11, 12, 15 and 16 due to the death of my mother. Had I been able I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 169—"yea"; Rollcall No. 170—"yea"; Rollcall No. 171—"yea"; Rollcall No. 172—"yea"; Rollcall No. 173—"yea"; Rollcall No. 174—"yea"; Rollcall No. 175—"yea"; Rollcall No. 176—"yea"; Rollcall No. 177—"yea".

STOCK OPTIONS

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, in this time of seemingly endless stories of corporate fraud and mismanagement, I would like to take the opportunity to salute a bold step recently taken by one of the world's most respected corporations. As you know, the Coca-Cola Company's world headquarters is located in Atlanta, GA.

The Coca-Cola Company announced on Sunday that it would expense the cost of all stock options the company grants, beginning with options to be granted in the fourth quarter of 2002.

I commend CEO Douglas Daft and the leadership of the Coca-Cola Company on their decision. Stock options are indeed a form of employee compensation and their characterization as a balance sheet expense will provide investors with a clearer picture of Coca-Cola's fiscal health.

Sunday's announcement is indicative of Coca-Cola's ongoing commitment to economic integrity and fairness. With this new policy, the company will be able to design whatever kind of options it believes will both best motivate employees and more align their interests with those of share owners, without regard for the options' accounting effects.

While Coca-Cola is the first company of its size to take this important step, I predict it will not be the last. As other corporations follow Coke's lead, investor confidence in our markets will grow once again.

NOMINATION OF DR. RICHARD CARMONA FOR SURGEON GENERAL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, HELP, voted to support the nomination of Dr. Richard Carmona for the position of U.S. Surgeon General. While the Surgeon General has played a major role on health care matters for more than one hundred years, the unique challenges confronting our Nation at the beginning of the 21st century require an elevated level of leadership.

The threat of bioterrorism is real—a fact made clear in the last year as anthrax attacks killed five people, infected 22, and exposed hundreds. These attacks highlighted the inadequacy of our Nation's public health infrastructure to prevent, detect, and respond to an infectious disease outbreak, whether such an outbreak is intentionally or naturally caused.

Since that time, much has taken place. We in Congress have passed, and the President has signed into law, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act. We have significantly increased the Federal commitment to upgrading capacity in State and local health departments and we are now considering how a new Department of Homeland Security could enhance our efforts to prevent and respond to bioterrorism.

Despite these steps, we are still not fully prepared to meet the threat of bioterrorism and much work remains to be done to bolster our public health system. This will be one of the most important tasks facing the country and facing the incoming Surgeon General. Dr. Carmona's experience and expertise prepares him well for this effort.

As we strengthen the public health system's capabilities, we are also challenged by a growing epidemic of chronic disease that significantly impacts our Nation's health. Take, for example, obesity. Sixty-one percent of American adults and 13 percent of children and adolescents are overweight or obese, and these rates are increasing among all age groups. In my home State of Tennessee, the rate of obesity has grown from 12 percent to 22 percent over the past decade. An estimated

300,000 deaths each year in the United States are linked to being overweight or obese. Those who are obese have a 50- to 100-percent increased risk of premature death. This problem is now one of the most serious public health challenges facing the country. Next week, Senator BINGAMAN, Senator DODD, Senator STEVENS, and I will be introducing the Improved Physical Activity and Nutrition Act to help address this problem. I look forward to working with Dr. Carmona to address this issue.

Additionally, youth smoking and substance abuse are a significant concern. Twenty-five percent of adults smoke—with even higher rates among young adults. Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in this country, and alcohol misuse contributes to one-third of motor vehicle crash related deaths. Over one-half of 10th graders have smoked tobacco. Sixteen percent of 8th graders have been drunk at least once in the past year. Twenty-five percent of high school seniors have used an illicit drug in the past 30 days.

There are a number of approaches we can take to these problems as legislators. Last Congress, we reauthorized the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in which we included a special emphasis on youth drug abuse. But the Surgeon General bears a special responsibility to help educate the Nation about the dangers of such behavior, and I am pleased that this will be a priority for Dr. Carmona as Surgeon General.

During the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing on his nomination, Dr. Carmona emphasized that his priority will be prevention: to prevent unnecessary illness, disability and death. Many of the major health problems facing the country can be improved with a focus on prevention, and Dr. Carmona's focus on these issues will benefit the country as he serves us as Surgeon General.

Before the hearing on Dr. Carmona's nomination, there were concerns raised regarding some aspects of his professional background. The committee appropriately inquired about these issues during the hearing. Dr. Carmona's responses were forthright and direct, and I believe he has addressed concerns about his ability to perform the duties of the Surgeon General. His background and experience as a trauma surgeon, as a director of a county health system, and as an expert in emergency medical systems, along with her personal drive and commitment to improving the health of all Americans, will serve the country well. Mr. President, I intend to support Dr. Carmona's nomination. I urge my colleagues to support him as well.

CONFIRMATION OF LAVENSKI SMITH TO THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, this week I voted not to confirm

Lavenski Smith to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, which includes my State of Minnesota. While I have supported the vast majority of administration appointments that have come to the floor to date, I voted against this nominee because I am concerned about his lack of experience and qualifications, as well as about what I consider to be an excessively ideological approach to important issues, such as women's reproductive rights, in his legal work so far.

Our district needs and deserves the best judges, especially because they receive lifetime appointments. I regret that the President did not nominate a person with a more distinguished record to this important position.

Mr. Smith has just 7 years' experience practicing law, in which time he has gained minimal Federal experience and minimal appellate experience. He has no experience arguing cases before the Eighth Circuit, the court to which he has now been confirmed.

In addition to his lack of experience, Mr. Smith has advocated ideologically tendentious legal positions that I believe may cast doubt on his ability to adjudicate cases fairly. In the one appellate case in which Mr. Smith took a lead role, his argument in relation to reproductive rights was unanimously rejected by the Arkansas Supreme Court. The court's decision observed that Mr. Smith disregarded both judicial precedent and the plain meaning of the Arkansas Constitution in making his case.

The circuit court of appeals is one step from the Supreme Court. Yet the Arkansas Times wrote of this nominee: "Lavenski Smith of Little Rock is not the best qualified Arkansan President Bush could have chosen for the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, nor even close." Whatever State a nominee might come from, Minnesota and the Eighth Circuit deserve better.

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 February 6, 1995, in West Hollywood, CA. A gay man was punched and kicked by several youths who made anti-gay remarks. The assailants, three teens, were charged with battery and interference with civil rights.

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