

Americans. His discovery ultimately led to a Senate Sub-Committee chaired by the Honorable Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin to investigate the scandal. This incident is memorialized in the U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and in the books *Report from Wasteland—America's Military Industrial Complex*, by Senator William Proxmire and *The Pentagonists*, by A. Earnest Fitzgerald.

Our hearts are saddened with the loss of such a precious man, but at the same time we are grateful for his contributions to our country, the state of Mississippi, and his family. I know my colleagues will join me in honoring and appreciating the remarkable life of Mr. John M. McGee.

ELIMINATION OF THE WEP AND GPO

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I have asked Senator FEINSTEIN to add me as a cosponsor to her bill, S. 1523, which would amend the Social Security Act to permanently repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. I am pleased to support my colleague Senator KENNEDY and others in their support of this bill.

Massachusetts is one of 15 states in which the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision hits employees and retirees particularly hard, because it is one of the few remaining states where many state employees, such as teachers, do not pay into the Federal Social Security system. Rather, they pay into a state pension fund. For many workers, the formulas in the law that reduce Social Security benefits for these workers can have troubling and unintended consequences.

Listen to the testimonial of one educator from my state. This constituent writes:

I served 13 years in the military and am a wartime veteran. I did not receive a military pension; however, I did pay into Social Security. I am shocked to learn that I may receive virtually nothing from Social Security. My teaching pension in Massachusetts will be small if I retire at 60 with only 22 years of teaching service. I had previously thought that Social Security would help to make up for the smaller teaching pension. I feel that the Federal government is unfairly penalizing those who have embarked on second careers as teachers. They have created a disincentive that will work against filling projected teaching shortages. I feel especially cheated as I did sacrifice much during my military career. It is obvious that I would be much better off financially had I not served at all. I hope this is not the message that the government wants to send.

The government pension offset has a significant impact on the benefits of many retired public employees just like this one. For example, a disabled former school employee and widow who retired in 1986 receives \$403 a month from her school pension. That income results in the elimination of a \$216 monthly Social Security survivor's

benefit, to which she would otherwise be entitled. As a result, her total income is about 70 percent of the Federal poverty level. Another constituent, a retired widow who worked as a school cook, receives \$233 a month from her school pension. Her Social Security widow's benefit is reduced by \$155 because of the automatic offset. Her combined total income is about 76 percent of the Federal poverty level.

It is clear that the GPO and WEP, complex though they are, are causing pain and confusion. They also negatively impact teacher recruitment efforts, at a time where we sorely need teachers, yet the potential reduction in Social Security benefits makes it unlikely that people will turn to teaching for a few years at the tail end of their careers. Consider the irony: Individuals who have worked in other careers are less likely to want to become teachers if doing so will mean a loss of Social Security benefits they have earned, and yet our State and Federal policies are aimed at recruiting just those individuals to teaching as a second career. Retired teachers are also reluctant to return to teaching to help fill urgent needs because of the impact of the GPO and WEP. Finally, there is a fear that current teachers are likely to leave the profession to reduce the penalty they will incur upon retirement.

The reforms that led to the GPO and WEP are almost 20 years old, nearly a generation. They were passed before many of us were members of this body. Now that we are witnessing some of the impacts these 20-year old decisions are having on people's lives, we understandably want to help our constituents, and I support that effort. However, while I support the repeal of the GPO and WEP, I know that if we continue to address Social Security issues on a piecemeal basis, even expanding benefits as certain social needs dictate, without fixing the program's underlying imbalances and demographic challenges, we will make real reform more difficult when the time finally comes.

However, for the reasons outlined above, and the effect the provisions are having on my constituents, I believe it is essential that the GPO and WEP be repealed, preferably as part of an overall reform to Social Security, but by themselves if need be. My State, and others affected by the GPO and WEP, cannot afford to provide disincentives to be teachers or other public servants at this critical time.

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 May 14, 1995 in Brooklyn, NY. A gay man was attacked by another man who used anti-gay slurs. The assailant, John McHenry, 25, was charged with second-degree assault, criminal possession of a weapon, and harassment 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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE ARKANSAS MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

• Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, it is my distinct privilege to recognize and pay tribute to the heroes of Arkansas who have been awarded the Purple Heart. This distinguished group of Americans are the recipient of our nation's earliest military decoration and the oldest in the world in present use. The Purple Heart is a combat decoration awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the armed forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy.

The Purple Heart was originated by General George Washington in 1782 to recognize "instances of unusual gallantry." Referred to then as the Badge of Military Merit, the decoration was awarded only three times during the Revolutionary War. The modern Purple Heart was brought into existence by Army Chief of Staff, General Douglas MacArthur. The medal was designed by Miss Elizabeth Will, in the Office of the Quartermaster General, and was introduced by the War Department on February 22, 1932, the bicentennial of George Washington's birth.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart provides a loud and clear voice on behalf of veterans and the issues that concern them. The crucial work that they do reminds us of just how precious freedom is, and that those who have unselfishly risked everything in freedom's name are worthy of every benefit a grateful nation can afford.

On behalf of the United States Senate, I thank the Arkansas members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart for the sacrifices that they have made in defense of this great nation. ●

HAPPY 275TH ANNIVERSARY BOW, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to give my congratulations to the town of Bow, New Hampshire on their 275th anniversary.

Bow, New Hampshire is a quaint and inviting city and home to nearly 7,200

proud residents. The town was chartered in 1727 and began as an agricultural settlement. The waterways that stretch through Bow allowed the town to establish a series of mills that have since served as the heart of an area of town known affectionately as "Bow Mills." Bow has also served as a historically significant stomping ground for many influential figures. Sergeant John Ordway, native to Bow, was part of the Lewis and Clark expedition and Andrew Jackson stopped in Bow on his 1833 New England Tour. Residents of this beautiful town are among the first in the nation to vote in primaries.

This progressive city has been able to maintain a family-oriented and relaxing environment for 275 years in spite of their close proximity to the two largest cities in New Hampshire. It is highly commendable that Bow has preserved a superbly low crime rate and given its residents a safe and secure town in which to live and raise their families. Bow is incomparable in so many ways, particularly the attention Bow gives to the public school system in their community. Bow's public schools are well maintained, well equipped with the latest technology to ensure cutting-edge education and skills training, and most importantly, provide an adequate number of teachers that can endow our children with guidance and direction. The student to teacher ratio is roughly 14 to 1. This is an astounding and praiseworthy circumstance and furnishes Bow's youth with the opportunity for one to one interaction in the classroom and an extended chance to explore each subject in greater depth.

Bow is truly one of the most unique and wonderful cities in New Hampshire and in the United States. It is said that Bow originally was given its name because of its literal positioning at the bow of the Merrimack River. I propose that perhaps Bow was given its name for its representational properties; the visual packaging of this town is beautifully decorated, however, what you discover inside the package is the true gift and reward.

Bow, New Hampshire, congratulations on your 275th anniversary. It is an honor to represent the citizens of Bow in the U.S. Senate.●

IN MEMORY OF RESERVIST ROBERT RANERI

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the memory of a fallen soldier in the U.S. Military, Robert Raneri.

Robert Raneri was a captain and commander of the 94th Military Police Company in the Army Reserves and a highly respected and dedicated officer. Raneri's professionalism and dedication to the Army was thought by many to be unrivaled. In July of 2000, Captain Raneri led a unit of 600 soldiers in a mission to Bosnia. In the wake of a very politically and militarily charged conflict, Raneri returned nine months

later with every one of the 600 soldiers alive and unscathed as he had promised upon their departure overseas. Those who worked with Robert knew him as a strong presence and as a man not afraid to take chances if it was in the best interest of the men he commanded and of the nation. His peers remember him as calm, deliberate, clear-headed, compassionate, tough, and exacting. These virtues combined created a fine leader, friend, and man in Mr. Robert Raneri.

Robert was to be married to Maj. Amy Huther a week after his June 26th passing, greatly looking forward to being a husband and a father someday. These dreams will cease to be realized for this exceptional man as a result of the unfortunate motorcycle accident that recently took his life.

Robert Raneri was a dedicated Army Reservist who spent his life serving the United States as a commanding officer to the 94th Military Police Company and his memory should be held in the highest respect. Robert's passing is a great loss not only for his family, but for the country and the U.S. Army.●

IN MEMORY OF ALBERT G. CAPPANNELLI

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today in remembrance of a highly respected and valued member of the Manchester community and an esteemed public relations careerist, Mr. Albert G. Cappannelli.

Al began his work with public media as a radio news reporter after graduating from Boston University with a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism. His fervor for the technique of media and journalism led Al to the arena of strategy consulting. As director of national media at High Point Communications, he developed tactics for clients throughout New Hampshire including the Department of Education as well as on the national circuit for companies including Anthem Blue Cross-Blue Shield, American Express Financial Services, and Maryland Public Service Commission. Colleagues described Albert as savvy and highly effective in his discipline.

In addition to Al's professional career, he established a well-deserved reputation as a community leader in Manchester. He volunteered his time and effort to a number of causes in the community spanning across interests with regard to both personal and social affairs. Al was an active member at St. Peter's in Auburn where he held a position in the parish council and was a parish facilitator for the Crown Ministries for the Diocese of Manchester. He was a huge advocate in matters surrounding education; volunteering his time with Weston Elementary School, Keene State College, McDonald Youth Leadership program, and as a member of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce Education Committee.

Albert Cappannelli was the victim of an unfortunate and untimely passing

as a result of liver cancer that had been diagnosed merely 2 weeks earlier. Albert is survived by his wife Jane of 16 years and his two children, Joshua and Helen.

Al spent his life and career serving public interest and revealed an uncompromising compassion and integrity throughout that endeavor. He was a fine man, respected colleague, and adored by all who knew him. I was proud to call him my friend, and honored to represent such a fine individual in the U.S. Senate.●

A TRIBUTE TO DEAN KAMEN

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an innovator of the ages, an artist of medicine, and technological visionary, Mr. Dean Kamen.

As a prominent figure in the life and community of our State of New Hampshire we honor Mr. Kamen for his efforts and entrepreneurial spirit that have furthered the fields of science and technology in numerous ways with the advent of his inventions. The improvements in several medical procedures and enhancement of the administering of various drug treatments have vastly improved the lives of individuals who suffer from a range of illnesses. Mr. Kamen holds over 150 national and international patents and is renowned throughout the country as one of the greatest inventors of this age. Among his credits include the first wearable infusion pump, the first insulin pump for Diabetics, and the HomeChoice/TM/dialysis machine.

Recently, Mr. Kamen was in New Hampshire to demonstrate to the Environment and Public Works Committee, his latest technological improvement, the Segway Human Transporter, an environmentally friendly and fuel-efficient mode of transportation for the 21st century. In attending this demonstration I was able to witness firsthand the incredible and impressive talent and vision of Mr. Kamen.

Dean Kamen accomplishments are well-recognized and his many awards include the Kilby Award for extraordinary contributions to society, the Heinz Award in Technology, and the National Medal of Technology given to him in 2000 by President Bill Clinton for inventions that have advanced medical care worldwide. In addition, Mr. Kamen was honored by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation as "2002 Person of the Year" for work related to the research and advancement of diabetes treatment for youths.

Dean Kamen deserves to be recognized for his exceptional efforts at spreading the excitement of science and technology to the world at large. His advances for medical technology have been blanketed in the notion that technology can be of virtue and practical in our society, a proposition that is admirable and worthy of merit. Thank you, Dean, for all your efforts to aid others through the advancement