

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred February 26, 2003 in Charlottesville, VA. Daisy Lundy was assaulted on the University of Virginia campus by an unknown man. Lundy, a 19 year-old of African American and Korean descent, left a friend's room just before 2 a.m. to retrieve a cell phone. When she got to her car, the assailant, described only as a "heavy-set" white man, attacked her, slamming her head into the steering wheel. The attacker referred to Lundy's candidacy for student council, and used a racial epithet during the assault.

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 is 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.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HONORING THE 2003 JCC MACCABI GAMES

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, this August the Jewish Community Center Maccabi Games will be held in Tenafly, NJ. Along with 300 local athletes, there will be 1,300 athletes from elsewhere in the United States, Canada, Israel, Europe, South America, Mexico, and Australia.

It is quite an honor to be the host for this event and quite a responsibility. The benefit of the Maccabi Games lies not only in the sporting events themselves, but because the Games bring together young Jewish people from all over the world.

Along with the athletic competitions, there will be social activities that bring together people from all over the world who nonetheless share the same history, values, and pride. The Games will also feature cultural programs and community service projects. When the Games conclude, these teenagers will take with them memories and friendships to last a lifetime.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the participants of the 2003 JCC Maccabi Games. The Games are a great avenue for Jewish teenagers to meet other Jewish teens from around the world and make lifetime friendships and memories.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO MARY PAT ANGELINI, ALICE J. GUTTLE, THE HONOR- ABLE SUSAN D. WIGENTON AND THERESA I. SEITZ

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I today pay special tribute to four incredible women from New Jersey. On March 13 the Monmouth Council of Girl Scouts will honor Mary Pat Angelini, Alice Guttler, Esq., Theresa Seitz, and Judge Susan Wigenton at its Annual Women of Distinction Dinner.

Mary Pat Angelini is receiving the Community Service Award and is currently the Executive Director of Prevention First, which works to provide leadership and develop leaders to prevent substance abuse. She has been with the organization since 1992 and has helped to increase its annual budget from \$125,000 to multi-million dollar status.

Mary Pat Angelini has been involved with substance abuse prevention for many years. She is the immediate past president of the New Jersey Prevention Network and she was a member of the Leadership Council for the Community Anti Drug Coalitions of America.

Since 2000 she has served on the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Ms. Angelini coordinated 38 local coalitions to prevent substance abuse with the Monmouth County's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services. She also sits on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's New Jersey Health Initiative Advisory Committee.

Alice J. Guttler, Esq., is receiving the Professionalism Excellence Award. She currently is corporate counsel with Centrastate Healthcare System. Centrastate runs a 241-bed acute care community hospital, a continuous care retirement community and a 120-bed skilled nursing home.

Previously she was a New Jersey Deputy Attorney General in the Department of Law & Public Safety. She served as counsel to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and conducted labor, employment, and commercial litigation.

Judge Susan Wigenton is also receiving the Professionalism Excellence Award. Currently, Judge Wigenton serves as a United States Magistrate Judge in U.S. District Court. She previously served as a part-time United States Magistrate Judge. Prior to that, Judge Wigenton practiced in Middletown, NJ with the law firm of Giordano, Halleran & Ciesla, P.C.

Judge Wigenton has also served as a Public Defender in Asbury Park, New Jersey. She was Chair, Monmouth County District Ethics Committee. She currently serves as the Chair of the Civil Justice Reform Act Committee for the Federal Courts in the District of New Jersey.

Theresa I. Seitz is also receiving the Community Service Award. Since 1961 she has served on the Recreation Commission of Freehold, New Jersey and has directed Christmas plays for the Parent Teacher Association or St. Rose of Lima School.

Since 1982 Ms. Seitz has been a member of the Board of Trustees for "180, Turning Lives Around." This organization offers services to all family members affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse. She currently runs 180's "Puttin' on the Ritz Resale Boutique," which is a non-profit clothing shop that benefits the organization.

I ask my colleagues to join me and the Monmouth Council of Girl Scouts in honoring Mary Pat Angelini, Alice J. Guttler, Esq., Theresa I. Seitz and Judge Susan Wigenton for their great service to the residents of New Jersey.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO THE "FOUR CHAPLAINS" OF WORLD WAR II

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I pay tribute to the heroic "Four Chaplains" of World War II. In February, the Jewish War Veterans of Monmouth County and the Marlboro Jewish Center hosted the Monmouth County Interfaith Memorial Commemoration. These organizations honored four chaplains who bravely gave their life during World War II.

On February 3, 1943 the U.S. Troopship S.S. *Dorchester* was in the Atlantic Ocean when it was torpedoed by a German U-boat submarine 150 miles from Greenland. On board the ship were four chaplains. Protestant Ministers George L. Fox and Clark V. Poling, Roman Catholic Priest John P. Washington and Rabbi Alexander D. Goode. All went down with the *Dorchester*.

Two hundred and twenty-nine of the 902 Army GIs on board were rescued. Indications are that not as many would have made it safely to the rescue ships if not for the bravery of these four men. They helped soldiers to the rescue ships and when life vests ran out they gave up theirs so four soldiers could live. According to some eyewitnesses, the four men were last seen with their arms linked and their heads bowed in prayer.

I ask my colleagues to join me and the Jewish War Veterans of New Jersey in paying tribute to these four brave souls who died with dignity and gave their lives so others could live.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HONORING EPHRAIM AND JOANNE ZAYAT, DR. PAUL AND ESTHER LERER, MICHAEL AND SHARON GLASS AND RABBI YA'AKOV NEUBURGER

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I honor a few outstanding residents of the State of New Jersey. In March the SINAI Special Needs Institute is honoring these New Jerseyans for their dedication to the community. The Institute works to meet the needs of learning disabled children throughout the State.

Ephraim and Joanne Zayat received the Pillars of SINAI award. Mr. Zayat is the executive chair and CEO of Heineken, Egypt and was named a Global Leader for Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum. He also serves on the Bush-Mubarak Presidents Council. Mr. Zayat is a member of the board of directors of the Academic Egyptian Arts & Sciences Foundation.

Mrs. Zayat is on the board of directors at Yavneh Academy and she was a board member of Congregation Bnai Yeshurun. She is also an active member of Amit and Emunah.

Dr. Paul and Esther Lerer were the Institute's guests of honor at this annual dinner. Dr. Lerer is a board member of Moriah School and a member of the religious services and tzedakah committees of Congregation Ahavath Torah.

Esther Lerer is on the board of trustees at Congregation Ahavath Torah where she was also president. She is also a member of the board at Ma'ayanot High School, Shaare Zedek Medical Center, and the UJA Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson. Dr. and Esther Lerer are involved in Bar Ilan University and they have been honored by Yeshivat Shalvim.

Michael and Sharon Glass were the Kesser Shem Tov awardees. Michael Glass is an original member of Dof Yomi. He also helps set up the Shalosh Seudos every Shabbat and is a member of the monthly shomer program. Michael Glass is the vice president of Global Scientific Affairs for the Adams division of Pfizer. In that capacity he works for kosher certification of Adams confectionary products.

Sharon Glass is director of the Jewish Center of Teaneck's Nursery School and used to be a teacher in the Leah Sokoloff Nursery School at Congregation Shomrei Torah. She is also the shul's co-vice president of sisterhood.

Rabbi Ya'akov Neuburger was the recipient of the Rabbinic Leadership award. Rabbi Neuburger is the spiritual leader for Congregation Beth Abraham. He was also one of the first rabbis to receive Yadin Yadin ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Eichenan Theological Seminary.

I ask my colleagues to join me and the SINAI Special Needs Institute in honoring these very dedicated residents of New Jersey who have contributed so much to their communities.●

ANOTHER UNPRECEDENTED STEP BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I raise an issue that has come to my attention regarding the Justice Department's reported attempt to restrict the use of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System by local law enforcement. According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and the Associated Press, a Department of Justice attorney recently threatened to bring charges against a top firearm official in California. The charges stem

from California's practice of conducting National Instant Criminal Background Check System or NICS background checks.

According to reports, the dispute involves the use of the NICS database by law enforcement to determine if guns seized in criminal investigations should be returned to their owners. California officials need access to the NICS database because it includes data from across the country and therefore more accurately determines whether a person is prohibited from possessing a firearm. Local law enforcement in California performs these checks thousands of times per year.

An example from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence illustrates the problem. When responding to a domestic violence complaint, law enforcement in California ask if there are any firearms present in the home and take temporary custody of any guns they find. Before returning the guns, law enforcement asks the California Department of Justice to run a NICS background check to determine whether the gun owner is prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm. The U.S. Department of Justice is challenging this practice, claiming that it is a misuse of the NICS background check system. The U.S. Justice Department wants law enforcement to stop performing these checks and immediately return guns to their owner.

The Brady Law contains nine categories of individuals prohibited from purchasing and possessing a firearm including felons and illegal immigrants. I believe that law enforcement in all 50 states and the District of Columbia should do everything within the law to insure that these potentially dangerous individuals do not gain access to firearms. The State of California is carrying out a common sense application of the law. As the Los Angeles Times said in a recent editorial, the Justice Department's threatened actions are reckless, and are contrary to both public safety and sensible public policy.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the Los Angeles Times editorial be included in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ASHCROFT'S RUSSIAN ROULETTE

Last year, Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft tried but failed to get the U.S. Supreme Court to buy his theory that the 2nd Amendment allows pretty much anyone to buy pretty much any gun, a view the court has consistently if infrequently rejected.

Now Ashcroft has threatened California's top firearms control official with criminal charges if the state continues to use a federal databank to hunt down those making illegal gun purchases, as it has done for years. Ashcroft's latest decree is reckless and could emasculate this nation's gun laws, hamstringing police and put the public at risk.

Since 1998, firearms dealers across the country have used the Department of Justice's National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS, to check, supposedly within 30 seconds, whether a customer is prohibited from owning a gun because of, for ex-

ample, a felony or a history of mental illness.

California also has used the system to check whether someone recently found by doctors to be mentally unstable—and therefore barred from purchasing a weapon—had earlier bought a firearm.

In addition, state law enforcement officials use this background check to determine whether police should return a weapon confiscated from an arrested person. The police are required to withhold a gun if, for example, they learn that the suspect had committed a crime in another state since he bought it.

These have been standard law enforcement practices in California for years.

Ashcroft wants to stop such practices, believing that a gun owner's right to privacy trumps public safety.

The federal Brady law, requiring the background check for handgun buyers, requires gun dealers to take one peek at an individual's criminal record. A buyer with a clean record takes the gun home. But if that same individual later commits a crime, is slapped with a restraining order or becomes mentally unstable, Ashcroft has decreed no one should know.

Ashcroft would force California law enforcement officials to play Russian roulette 7,000 times a year when they release a suspect for lack of evidence, spring a parolee from prison or discover that a judge has put a restraining order on a wife beater who has a firearm. Only, in this game, the bullets will be aimed at law-abiding citizens.

For the moment, California Atty. Gen. Bill Lockyer and his firearms division chief, Randy Rossi, are standing firm, as they should, vowing to continue using the NICS database to protect Californians despite Ashcroft's vague threats of prosecution. Pressure from Sen. Dianne Feinstein's (D-Calif.) office may have prompted staffers from Ashcroft's and Lockyer's offices to agree to talk Thursday by telephone in an effort to end this impasse.

A large part of Ashcroft's responsibility is protecting the public, not undercutting laws that would help him do that job.●

TRIBUTE TO GREENUP COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADING SQUAD

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute to the Greenup County High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad. On February 9, the Greenup County High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad won the Universal Cheerleading Association's National Championship in Orlando, FL.

Greenup County High School has a long standing tradition of bringing home the national title. Over the years, Greenup County has been named National Champions 11 times, a feat that no other high school cheerleading program in the country has accomplished.

For the young women on this squad this is not just an trophy, it is an affirmation that with hard work and determination, anything is possible. To accomplish this goal the members not only have to juggle long practices and games, but they continue to achieve academic excellence. Not only are these young women excellent athletes and students but they pride themselves in giving back to their community for