

her and her children's loss or pain, we continue to hold them in prayer and support them in all ways possible.

No tribute, no speech will replace Lieutenant Colonel Watkins. His children will grow up never knowing this truly great American. He will be missed. And, while it certainly does not fill the void left by his death, the greatest tribute to his life can be summed up by one act, one moment that will live in each of our memories forever.

It is the moment that a free Iraqi people, liberated from the chains of oppression, gathered in central Baghdad, breathed their first breaths of freedom and tore down the statue of the vile, ruthless dictator Saddam Hussein.

So, each time we see that footage of that historic event, each time we hear of the end of Saddam's ruthless, torturous regime, each time an Iraqi speaks their mind, we should, we must, remember the sacrifices of great, giving American servicemen and women like LTC William Watkins.

May he rest in peace, knowing how grateful we are and that we will support his family.

REQUEST FOR SEQUENTIAL REFERRAL—S. 1035

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent a letter to the honorable BILL FRIST be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, May 8, 2003.

Hon. BILL FRIST,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEADER: Pursuant to section 3(b) of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress, I request that S. 1025, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, which was reported out on May 8, 2003, by the Select Committee on Intelligence, be sequentially referred to the Committee on Armed Services for a period not to exceed thirty days of session.

With kind regards, I am
Sincerely,

JOHN WARNER,
Chairman.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to 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 September 19, 2001 in New York, NY. A 30 year-old Muslim man was assaulted by a group of six to eight men. The attackers shouted anti-Arab insults and pelted him with stones. The attackers fled before authorities could apprehend them.

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.

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, as you walk the halls of the Senate today, you may have noticed many young and bright faces. Today, we are celebrating the 11th anniversary of "Take Our Daughters to Work Day." Senator Hutchinson and I have been pleased to oversee today's activities with our colleagues.

Over 11 million girls ages 9 to 15 are spending today with their parents, relatives, friends, neighbors, and other mentors experiencing the wide range of careers the world has to offer.

Since 1993, 82 million young women and some young men have participated in this outstanding program. According to a recent poll commissioned by the Ms. Foundation for Women, girls believe the program increased their interest in education, broadened their thinking about the future, and strengthened their relationship with their parents and other caring adults.

This morning's Senate activities began with a breakfast and a tour of the Senate floor for approximately 200 girls and their sponsors, many of them Senate staff members and assistants who wanted to share with their girls the excitement and challenges of working in our Nation's Capitol, and in particular, here in the Senate.

This year, I am happy to host 19 young ladies, all with very promising futures, many from my home State of Louisiana. Please welcome: Miss Leslie Ann Leavoy of DeRidder, LA; Miss Monica Manning of Conyers, GA; Miss Sofia Gold of Chevy Chase, MD; Miss Nicoleta Koha and Miss Joyanna Malutinok of Lexington, MA; Miss Eliza Shaw, Miss Molly Claire Shaw, Miss Lindsey McDonough, Miss Allison McDonough, Miss Janie Abernathy, and Miss Kerry Garikes of Washington, DC; Miss Adrienne Lewis and Miss Megan Johnson of Baton Rouge, LA; Miss Caroline Mitchell of Mandeville, LA; Miss Jillian Baker of McLean, VA; Miss Taylor Denson and Miss Emma Caffery of New Orleans, LA; Miss Lena Jones of Fort Gordon, GA; and Miss Katy Magruder of Maitland, FL.

In closing, I would like to thank the Ms. Foundation the founder and organizer of this outstanding program that has impacted in a very positive way the lives of millions of girls and has become a tradition for thousands of workplaces around the country.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK 2003

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of National Nurses Week, celebrated this year from May 5 through May 12. Our annual tribute to the women and men who give comfort to the ill and injured across the country reminds us that nurses stand daily on the front lines of the health care profession. This year, however, we should also be reminded of the brave nursing professionals who serve on and behind the front lines of battle: America's military nurses. With our campaign in Iraq coming to a close, it is fitting to honor the patriots who mend and support our Armed Forces in the field, in addition to those who keep us healthy at home.

The first official military nurse corps in the United States was established in the Army at the turn of the last century. American women, however, had served as combat nurses in every major conflict since the Revolutionary War and, until the creation of the Army Nurse Corps, did so without recognition and as volunteers. In grade school we learned the story of Clara Barton and the gracious care she gave to soldiers wounded in the Civil War. But there were many women throughout American history—quite often the wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters of military men—who took up the role of nurse and treated the injured. They were compelled by genuine concern, kindness, and patriotism, and they used whatever supplies were available to them in their homes and neighborhoods.

In the First and Second World Wars, nursing was the predominant service women were allowed to perform as participating members of the military. During these wars and in conflicts since, nurses have sacrificed their safety and, at times, their lives in serving overseas as medical professionals. Here in our Nation's Capital, as part of the Vietnam Memorial on the National Mall, there is a very poignant statue dedicated to the nurses who joined our troops in Southeast Asia. The image illustrates the important integration of medical care givers in successful military operations and the strength of these women who traveled to Vietnam and faced the same dangers and perils our soldiers did. In the gulf war, Afghanistan, and Iraq, military nurses have continued to exhibit this resolve and calm while tending to our Armed Forces. For a wounded soldier abroad, I can imagine no greater comfort.

My appreciation for those who serve our communities and our Nation through the nursing profession stems from my experiences growing up on the campus of a Veterans Administration, VA, hospital. Additionally, my mother, sister, and wife all have nursing backgrounds and I have witnessed their commitment to quality health care and to their patients throughout my life. As we honor the women and men who are dedicated to this profession in clinics, hospitals, and VA facilities across

the country, we also honor those nurses who are themselves veterans. They are soldiers of a different, yet equally brave, stripe and they are certainly heroes to the wounded troops they help to bring home. I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in recognizing and thanking America's nurses, military and civilian, for the incredible, indispensable, and courageous work they do.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I commend the 20,000 registered nurses working in Nebraska as we celebrate National Nurses Week. From May 6–12, we recognize the diverse ways in which registered nurses, the largest health care profession, are working to improve health care. From bedside nursing in hospitals and long-term care facilities to the halls of research institutions, State legislatures, and Congress, the depth and breadth of the nursing profession is meeting the expanding health care needs of American society.

I also urge more Nebraskans to consider nursing as a career. Although nursing is one of the most noble professions, more nurses are desperately needed. The Department of Health and Human Services predicts that the number of nursing vacancies nationwide will rise from its current total of 126,000 to 275,000 in 2010. The shortage of nurses in Nebraska is also reaching epidemic proportions, with one in 10 nursing positions unfilled.

My colleagues and I want to provide more educational opportunities for people who want to become nurses. In response to the national nursing shortage, the Nurse Reinvestment Act of 2002 was signed into law in August 2002. The Nurse Reinvestment Act provides scholarships to nursing students who agree to provide 2 years of service in a health care facility with a critical nursing shortage. It also allows for the canceling of up to 85 percent of a student's graduate studies loans if they later teach at a school of nursing. The act also provides grants to improve nurse education, practice, and retention as well as a program for training and education in geriatric care that will enable nurses to better serve the growing population of older Americans. State and national public service announcements will promote nursing and raise awareness of the financial assistance that is available.

A loan forgiveness program is also available. The Nurse Education Loan Repayment Program will pay 60 percent, or up to \$30,000, of an RN's student loan balance in exchange for 2 years of service. If an eligible participant elects to stay for another year, an additional 25 percent of the loan, or up to \$7500, will be repaid.

Nebraska also has a loan forgiveness program for nursing students. A limited amount of \$1,000 loans are awarded each year. The loan is forgiven if the graduate practices nursing in Nebraska for at least 1 year following graduation.

Again, I commend the work of Nebraska's nurses and send my best wishes during National Nurses Week.

FLORIDA VETERANS MOBILE SERVICE CENTER COMES TO THE HILL

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I am enormously proud that on Tuesday, the Florida Veterans Mobile Service Center came to Capitol Hill as part of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Annual Membership Meeting and Conference.

The Florida Veterans Mobile Service Center is a 40-foot van equipped with two exam rooms, as well as facilities for dental care. The Center travels the State of Florida providing care to homeless veterans who live in rural encampments. The unit offers homeless veterans immediate assistance of food and clothing, health screening and assessment, VA benefit determination and counseling, as well as assessment of housing, mental health, substance abuse, employment, educational and vocational needs. That the Center is mobile, allows its team—comprised of staff from Volunteers of America and Department of Veterans Affairs—to go where their assistance is most needed.

This community service provider offers homeless veterans a unique way to receive quality care while still ensuring their sense of dignity and respect. I take pride in the fact that my State offers this initiative, effective source of help to our Nation's veterans. We all owe those who risked their lives defending this country a debt of gratitude, and I am so thankful to the Center's hardworking, compassionate team for doing their part in paying that debt.

I especially want to point out the dedication of Scott Martin, who drove more than 900 miles to bring the Florida Veterans Mobile Service Center from Tampa, FL, to Washington, DC. I also would like to thank Kathryn Spearman, president and CEO of Volunteers of America of Florida, Ray Tuller, chief financial officer of Volunteers of America of Florida, and Ed Quill, director of external affairs for Volunteers of America of Florida, all of whom joined Scott here in Washington.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARLENE PERLING

• Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask that the following article recognizing the generosity of Marlene Perling toward Zachary Wood and his family be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Duluth News Tribune, May 8, 2003]
A STRANGER . . . A BOY . . . A GIFT; A WIDOW'S OFFER TO THE FAMILY OF A DISABLED 10-YEAR-OLD FULFILLS HER WISH AND ZACHARY WOOD'S DREAM

(By Chuck Frederick)

INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINN.—Fourth-grader Zachary Wood and his family are still numb, perhaps from pinching themselves so much.

Two weeks ago, Zachary's dad, Terry Wood, was raking the yard when a neighbor dropped by, wondering if the family was interested in a used van with a wheelchair lift. Zachary has spina bifida and has used a wheelchair since he was a toddler. A new van with a lift was definitely in the family's future—perhaps next year, Terry Wood thought, when their current car was paid off.

The neighbor leaned in.
"You really should take a look at this van," he said. "I think you can get a really good deal."

So Terry Wood hoisted Zachary, 10, into the family car as his wife, Tammy, and 15-year-old daughter, Jenna, hopped in. They motored to nearby Rainy Lake. It was a nice van—full-size Ford, motorized lift, low miles and no rust.

"I'm supposed to show you the pontoon boat and house, too," said the Woods' neighbor, a cousin of the home's owner.

"Uh, sure," said the Woods, a bit puzzled. But they decided not to pass up a chance to check out a beautiful lakefront property.

The boat and the house were, like the van, equipped with ramps and sturdy, level surfaces that made it easy for Zachary to get around. He wheeled across wide decks with breathtaking lake vistas. Inside, he rolled under knotty pine ceilings. The house even had an elevator.

"It's fantastic. Thanks for the tour," Terry Wood said. He started to ask about the van and its price, but the neighbor interrupted.

"Now, couldn't you kids just picture yourself living here?" he asked.

"Yeah, right, in our dreams," said Terry Wood, an International Falls police officer for 13 years.

"Maybe if we win the lottery," said Tammy Wood, who works at Rainy Lake Community College.

The both laughed, but sometimes dreams come true.

SUMMERS ON THE LAKE

David Perling was born in International Falls and grew up in Iowa. When he was 15, he and some buddies were goofing around on a wagon, throwing hay at each other. Perling weaved to the side to avoid an attack, but lost his balance and crashed to the ground. The wagon rolled over him twice, paralyzing him.

He went on to become an electrical engineer. Six years ago, he and his wife decided they wanted to spend summers back in his hometown and on Rainy Lake. His late uncle's place was available. It would be perfect for escaping the triple-digit heat in Arizona, where David and Marlene Perling lived for more than three decades.

They lived at Rainy Lake for six straight summers. It was their place. The sun rises over Canada. The loons call.

They planned to return this summer, too. But in January, David Perling suffered a stroke and died. He was 61.

A Rainy Lake neighbor called Marlene Perling in the spring about buying the lakefront place. She didn't know what to say.

"I can never put a price on this house. To me it's just priceless," she said. "But I also know that I could never come up without David. I cried a ton of tears. I knew I just couldn't sell this place."