

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 on September 28, 2001. A 47-year-old Mexican immigrant was beaten in his home by two men who believed him to be of Arab descent. After following the man home, the pair chased him to his front door, broke in after him, and physically assaulted him in front of his wife and child. According to the pair, the assault was revenge for the September 11, 2001 bombing tragedy.

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.

NATO PROTOCOLS OF ACCESSION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I would like to speak about the historic vote last week in this Chamber to recommend the ratification of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Protocols of Accession. I add my belated support to the protocols which serve to broaden the world's greatest alliance and, in the process, strengthen it to confront the new dangers of this new century.

It is said that the poppies in the fields of Europe are red with the blood of millions of Europeans and Americans who gave their lives so that millions more could live in peace. Such is the legacy of the 20th century. And from that same period, that same struggle, emerged the most successful strategic alliance the world has ever known—the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

For nearly half a century, that alliance manned the ramparts of a Europe that was divided and was still, truly, at war with itself. The fact that the war was a cold one, was itself cold comfort to the countless thousands trapped behind what came to be known as the 'iron curtain.'

When framed against the circumstances of NATO's birth and the fact that for so long the alliance's purpose was to keep the peace in a divided continent, the event that we gathered for last week was truly awesome indeed. Last week, we welcomed many of the nations of Europe once held captive by Communism into the partnership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The vote gave us the opportunity to affirm the place that NATO holds in the constellation of American security. Our fate is bound up with Europe's—to deny this is to overlook the lessons of history and the signposts of the future. Within Europe we find many of our closest and our oldest allies. For over 50 years, we have drawn strength from

NATO, and for over 50 years we have, through NATO, worked hard for the security of our partners. We cannot, will not, must not stop now.

Let us not forget, in times of crisis NATO has worked for American security as well. In the wake of September 11, 2001, the alliance invoked Article V of its charter for the first time in its history, calling the attack on one member an attack on all. European aircraft helped secure the skies over the eastern seaboard of the United States. Our NATO partners and our partnerships with them continue to be crucial to our Nation's security: the challenges we face as a nation are formidable—terrorism, tyrants, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction among them—and we cannot, we must not, face them alone.

But the world has changed, and so, too, must the alliance. The issues raised by Senators LEVIN and WARNER address some critical questions. As the number of alliance members increases, the ability of the council to act quickly may become harder and harder to realize. That is especially true because every NATO action requires unanimous consent. In addition, we must acknowledge the possibility that with 26 alliance members, the chances that one of them may someday cease to uphold the basic values that the treaty organization is based on also becomes—mathematically speaking, at least—more likely. The amendments request that the North Atlantic Council study how to deal with both eventualities, and I believe these requests to study are both appropriate and timely.

However, while I support these amendments, I am mindful of NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson's recent warnings that developing procedures to suspend members or changing the decisionmaking apparatus of the alliance would be ill-advised at this juncture. Lord Robertson has navigated the Alliance through some perilous waters during his tenure at the helm of NATO, and I see no reason to distrust his counsel now.

The expansion of NATO makes clear that, despite the claims of alarmists, this great alliance is not stumbling into irrelevance. We have had differences with some of our partners, and we will continue to. But with our commitment, the alliance can once again prove its resilience. It can once again demonstrate that common values between nations are the strongest bonds of all. We must not forget that enemies of America are also enemies of NATO, and they see the democratic diversity of our nations as a weakness. They think they can divide us. They are wrong. In our diversity, we find a wellspring of great strength. Standing in the Chamber today speaking for Senate approval of these protocols, I am reminded of the words of the Great Seal of the United States: *e pluribus unum*: "from many, one." I welcome our new European allies into the alliance structure; they will add their

strength to ours, and their addition will make us all more secure.

There are those in this country and in Europe who question the value of strong trans-Atlantic ties; they cite recent disagreements between some European nations and our own government as a rationale for the United States to stride alone into whatever fate holds in store for us all. By way of rejoinder, I offer President John F. Kennedy's words in 1962, when he urged his fellow Americans to "think intercontinentally." President Kennedy continued, "acting on our own, by ourselves, we cannot establish justice throughout the world; we cannot insure its domestic tranquility, nor provide for its common defense, or promote its general welfare, or secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. But joined with other free nations, we can do all this and more. We can assist the developing nations to throw off the yoke of poverty. . . . We can mount a deterrent powerful enough to deter any aggression. And ultimately we can help to achieve a world of law and free choice, banishing the world of war and coercion." President Kennedy called for a trans-Atlantic partnership based on common values and concerns, one that looked outward as well as inward, one that would "serve as a nucleus for the eventual union of all free men—those who are now free and those who are vowing that some day they will be free."

The truth in President Kennedy's words in 1963 has not diminished in 40 years. Although we may disagree with our partners and brothers in peace, our paths have not diverged, and our concerns are tied together still. I applaud my colleagues for their overwhelming vote for the ratification of the Protocols of Ascension that which, once ratified by all 19 NATO members, will allow these 7 nations, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, to become parties to the North Atlantic Treaty, and full members of the treaty organization.

CUBA TRAVEL

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise to speak to the issue of the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2003, S. 950, introduced by the junior Senator from Wyoming. I am cosponsoring this bill because I do not think the United States Government should tell its citizens where they can and cannot travel. I also think greater people-to-people contacts with societies living under dictatorial regimes can help encourage the spread of democratic ideas. It is for these reasons that I support S. 950.

Lifting our ban on travel to Cuba is not a gift to Fidel Castro, and it should not be interpreted as an endorsement of his regime or as a sign of diminished commitment to improving human rights conditions for the Cuban people. The recent harsh prison sentences meted out to dozens of peaceful political dissenters in Cuba, and the execution of three men involved in a ferry

hijacking, provide further evidence of the fundamentally repressive and undemocratic nature of the Castro regime. Cuba has been stubbornly imperious to the democratizing trend sweeping the hemisphere in recent years. This, however, merely demonstrates the failure of our 40-year policy isolation.

Lifting travel restrictions on our citizens is not likely to bring about a transformation in Cuba overnight. But we have already seen what perpetuating the ban has accomplished—nothing. We have been depriving our own citizen of their liberty without bringing the blessings of liberty any closer to the Cuban people. It is time to end this fruitless policy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ERIN M. MCCARTER, USAF

• Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, the world has just witnessed the overwhelming effectiveness of the Armed Forces of the United States. Our military's rapid success in Iraq should serve as a source of pride for our Nation, for that success is based on the people in the Armed Forces, average Americans and immigrants doing extraordinary things.

I come to the floor today to pay tribute to one of the people who has made the American military the great success it is today. At the end of this month, Lieutenant Colonel Erin McCarter will retire after over 20 years in the Air Force.

Col. McCarter hails originally from Moline, IL, one of the Quad Cities on the Mississippi River. She graduated from Moline High School and then attended the University of Iowa through the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant, she started her military career during the cold war as the logistics officer accountable for nuclear munitions at Ellsworth Air Force Base. At 21, then Lt. McCarter was responsible for the nuclear munitions at a Strategic Air Command facility. It is remarkable the responsibility the military places in the hands of relatively young officers and enlisted personnel, and these young men and women are routinely up to the demands placed on them.

Col. McCarter continued her Air Force career largely in logistics and as a staff officer. She served as a wing supply and headquarters staff officer at a number of major Air Force bases, including Ramstein in Germany and Shaw in South Carolina. She served as chief of the Pacific Air Force's weapon systems support at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. While there, she also served as chief protocol officer to the commanding general, Pacific Air Forces.

She went on to command the 8th Supply Squadron at Kunsan Air Force Base in South Korea, before coming to the Pentagon. After holding staff officer positions and serving as a liaison officer to Congress, Col. McCarter became Country Director, Saudi Arabia Division, in the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs. In this capacity, she successfully managed the relationship with one of our country's key strategic allies in the Middle East.

During her Air Force career, Col. McCarter received a master's degree in business administration and completed the executive program in international business management at Georgetown University. She received the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster.

After 20 years in service to our Nation, Colonel McCarter is retiring. Our Nation's loss is Illinois's gain, however, as she is returning to the Prairie State, where most of her family continues to reside. I want to take a moment as well to thank her family. Without their continuous support, I am confident Col. McCarter would not have had as successful a career in the Air Force as she enjoyed.

Upon Col. McCarter's retirement from active duty, I want to welcome her home to Illinois and thank her for her dedication, devotion to duty, and commitment to the Air Force and our Nation. We owe her and all her colleagues in the Armed Forces a great debt.●

TRIBUTE TO JERRY BERLIN

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I pay tribute to Jerry Berlin—a friend, an American patriot, and a principled and passionate man. On April 29, in a shocking tragedy, Jerry was shot and killed by his business partner at the Signature Grand banquet hall, which they had worked so hard to build together.

It is always difficult to know what to say when people we care about are taken from us before their time. Even more difficult when the death is so sudden, so horrific, as this one was. But let me take a moment to pay tribute to the great American life that Jerry lived.

Jerry was born in New York. His family, like many others, moved down to Miami when he was a boy. In high school at Miami Beach High, Jerry acted and danced in school productions. Those who knew him might have guessed it because he always had a spark in his eye and a spring in his step.

Jerry's hard work quickly established him as a stellar lawyer, and one of the best Democratic fundraisers in the country. He believed in what our party believes: that if you work hard and play by the rules, you should be

able to go as far in America as your talents will take you. And he didn't just talk about those ideals. He lived by them.

In the mid-1980s, Jerry's boundless energy led him to team with his business partner to create Signature Gardens, a banquet hall that catered literally and figuratively to the middle class. It was a place for weddings, proms, sweet sixteens, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. You name it. It was a place where the community came together. And it was a wonderful success.

All who knew Jerry are still in disbelief that his life could be taken, and in such a horrible way.

In recent years, I am told, Jerry was becoming more religious. He was exploring his faith. He even went to study in Jerusalem. I have no doubt he is with God, in peace, now. We mourn for him and pray for his children, Ashley, Bret and Sharon, his ex-wife Gwen, and his fiancée, Marna Ross.●

RETIREMENT OF WISCONSIN STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WILLIAM BABLITCH

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the career of a distinguished public servant, Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice William Bablitch. Justice Bablitch has been a voice of fairness and reason on the Wisconsin Supreme Court for nearly two decades. Upon his retirement in July of this year, Wisconsin will lose a fine jurist, but the State and the institution will be stronger for his contributions and his service.

Justice Bablitch has deep roots in Wisconsin. He was born and raised in Stevens Point and graduated from Pacelli High School. He cleaned golf clubs while working his way through college, studying first at University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point and ultimately earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. He spent 2 years in Liberia, West Africa in the Peace Corps, serving as an elementary school teacher. Upon his return he entered law school, and in 1968, he received his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. His close friends say his first love has always been the law.

Justice Bablitch has spent his entire career in public service—first as the District Attorney in Portage County, later elected to the State Senate, and finally as a justice on the State Supreme Court. In Portage County, Justice Bablitch coordinated one of the first sensitive crimes units in the state and worked cooperatively with the Portage County Sheriff to help the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point through the campus demonstrations that grew out of the Kent State protests and shootings.

First elected in 1972, Justice Bablitch served as a State Senator for 11 years representing Adams, Waushara, Portage and Wood Counties. For 7 of his 11 years in the State Senate, he had the