

flight 616 was held on the ground with mechanical difficulties and I missed a vote, which was vote No. 184 relative to the confirmation of Maurice Hicks as U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana. Had I been here, I would have voted in the affirmative.

FRIENDSHIP CONTRACT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today I would like to share an amazing story of friendship—a friendship that has blossomed over the past 17 years between the cities of Aalen and Dewangen, Germany, and the town of Webster in my home State of South Dakota.

In 1986, a group of wrestlers from Dewangen toured South Dakota for 3 weeks. During that time, local South Dakotan communities held exhibition matches, providing both South Dakota and this group of wrestlers an opportunity to display their skills and learn from each other.

Before making their final departure, the wrestlers made their final stop in Webster, where they were welcomed wholeheartedly. Individual friendships between the wrestlers and members of the Webster community formed immediately. In the 17 years following their initial visit, members of the wrestling group from Aalen and Dewangen returned to Webster to renew their relationships with the Webster community.

In 1999, Webster Mayor Mike Grosek decided it was time to pay his friends in Dewangen a visit. During his visit, members of the Dewangen community talked excitedly about a possible friendship contract between the two cities, and within the last 4 years informal discussions led to an official declaration. On April 5, a group of 16 individuals from Webster were on hand for the historic signing ceremony in Dewangen, and it is my pleasure to announce that a similar ceremony will occur in Webster on May 31. I am confident that the friendship forged between them will endure for many years to come, and I wish to extend my congratulations to all involved in making these momentous occasions possible.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Ford Motor Company on its 100th anniversary and its longstanding relationship with the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Ford has been an integral part of the Kentucky business community since 1913 when it began building Model T automobiles in a small shop on South Third Street in Louisville. From its modest beginnings in the Commonwealth, Ford rose to become a significant part of our economy. After opening additional plants in Louisville, Ford and its hard-working Kentucky employees produced more than 44,000 trucks for the U.S. Army during World War II.

Following the war, Ford continued to expand in Kentucky, initiating car production at the Louisville assembly plant on Fern Valley Road in 1955. In 1969, Ford built the Kentucky truck plant on Chamberlain Lane. The Kentucky truck plant would later utilize the world's most advanced computer-integrated system for manufacturing heavy truck frame rails. In September 2002, the Louisville assembly plant produced the five-millionth Ford Explorer.

Today, these two plants employ nearly 10,000 men and women in Kentucky who, in 2002, collectively earned more than \$660 million. In 2002, the two Ford facilities paid nearly \$50 million in State and local taxes. Ford and its Kentucky employees have made other important contributions to local community. Last year, they donated more than \$2.5 million to various Louisville community organizations and participated in the Adopt A Child and Sharing the Blessing programs.

As Ford Motor Company approaches its 100th anniversary on June 16, 2003, I am proud to take this opportunity to congratulate the company and its employees for their dedication to excellence. We look forward to the planned expansion of the Kentucky truck plant in Louisville and many more years of commitment to the people and Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Ford Motor Company. On June 16, 1903, Henry Ford, one of Michigan's most famous sons, founded Ford Motor Company.

It is seldom in history that one person or company makes such a dramatic, lasting impact on society. Thomas Edison modernized the light bulb and changed the way we see the world. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, and communication was changed forever. Henry Ford brought the automobile to the working family, and revolutionized manufacturing, transportation, and everyday American life.

It would certainly be difficult to overestimate the importance of Ford Motor Company on the American way of life. When it was founded, virtually no one owned an automobile. The personal mobility we take for granted today was unfathomable at the turn of the last century. But that was to change rapidly. Within 25 years of its founding, Ford manufactured more than 15 million Model T's, at a price that made them accessible to the working family. Today, there are over 200 million cars and light trucks on the road in the United States—more than 1 for every licensed driver.

The founding of this company has become a legend. With \$28,000 in cash, Ford and 11 associates founded what would become one of the world's largest corporations. The first moving assembly line was put into operation in Highland Park, MI, in 1913. This plant could produce a complete chassis in about an hour and a half—eight times faster than before.

At the same time, Ford began paying his workers \$5 per day—more than double the industry average wage. This high salary attracted workers to Michigan from around the country and the world. The influx of immigrants was so great that many have called the Ford River Rouge complex the Michigan-annex of Ellis Island.

Henry Ford was one of the first industrialists to hire African Americans. With the belief that hiring African Americans would help racial problems, he reached out to the Black community. By the onset of World War II, roughly half of Detroit's African-American workingmen were on Ford's payroll.

Ford Motor Company has a long history of producing memorable automobiles, from the Tin Lizzie to the Explorer. In 1954, Ford introduced the Thunderbird, a symbol of postwar optimism. The Ford Mustang, introduced in 1964, quickly became synonymous with the American free spirit and has remained a classic American car for almost 40 years. In 1991, the Ford Explorer defined the SUV segment of the market, and remains the best selling SUV in the world.

Ford's commitment to quality and innovation continues today. Ford, the world's second largest automaker, will have a hybrid—part electric, part gasoline powered—SUV available by 2004. Ford has also produced a cutting-edge hybrid fuel cell car, and is dedicated to bringing hydrogen-powered vehicles to the market in the future.

I am proud of Ford Motor Company's accomplishments over the last 100 years. I am glad Ford calls Michigan home, and I enthusiastically offer my support for the resolution commemorating Ford's centennial anniversary.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, 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 in Baltimore, MD. In October 1998, a group of 10 people attacked Leonard "Lynn" Vine, a 32-year-old native of East Baltimore, in front of his family's home because of his perceived sexual orientation. Vine was shot six times, yet survived the attack. The police investigated the attack as a hate crime, and 20-year-old Paul Bishop was charged with attempted murder.

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.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, as chairman and vice chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, Senator ROCKEFELLER and I have submitted to the Senate the Report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence of its activities during the 107th Congress from January 3, 2001 to November 22, 2002. The Committee is charged by the Senate with the responsibility of carrying out oversight of the intelligence activities of the United States. Much of the work of the Committee is of necessity conducted in secrecy, yet the Committee believes that the Intelligence Community and this Committee should be as accountable as possible to the public. The public report to the Senate is intended to achieve that goal.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

JOHN AND JESS ROSKELLEY'S CLIMB OF MT. EVEREST

• Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate father and son John and Jess Roskelley of Spokane, WA, for their successful climb of Mt. Everest. The Roskelleys' achievement is both inspiring and historic. By reaching the summit on Wednesday, May 21, the Roskelleys became the first father and son to climb the world's highest mountain together. Jess also became the youngest American to ever complete the climb.

Throughout history, explorers and adventurers have held a special place in our imaginations. Their vision and determination to explore uncharted territory, and to surmount overwhelming obstacles in fierce conditions and environments remind us of the indomitable power of the human spirit.

Mt. Everest has long captivated mankind as a powerful symbol of the awe the natural world can evoke. Since Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first people to grace its summit 50 years ago, the challenge of climbing Everest has attained an iconic status. Its precipitous slopes, seemingly bottomless crevasses, and thin air are a reminder both of the power of natural forces, and of the fragility of human life.

John Roskelley is an expert climber, with 30 years experience climbing in the demanding Himalayas. He is also an accomplished photographer and author, whose work vividly conveys the challenges and emotions of high-altitude mountaineering. John is a dedicated public servant, as well: he serves as a Commissioner of Spokane County.

Jess Roskelley has clearly inherited his father's mountaineering talents and taste for adventure. Though he is only 20 years old, Jess is already an ac-

complished climber in his own right. He has climbed Washington State's highest peak, 14,411-foot Mt. Rainier—also an impressive mountaineering feat—a remarkable 35 times.

The Roskelleys' names will long be remembered with those of other magnificent climbers from Washington State—a proud history that includes such giants as Jim and Lou Whittaker, Jim Wickwire, Willi Unsoeld, and Ed Viesturs.

With their accomplishment, John and Jess Roskelley have contributed to this tradition, and to that of all the adventurers and explorers who inspire us to challenge ourselves to realize our dreams, and to persevere in the face of overwhelming odds. They remind us of President John F. Kennedy's affirmation that we pursue some goals "not because they are easy but because they are hard."

The Roskelleys' remarkable achievement reminds us what we can accomplish when we set our hearts and minds upon difficult goals. I congratulate them on their success, and wish them a safe trip home. ●

250TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF KEENE, NH

• Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Keene, NH, the Elm City of New Hampshire. As the United States prepares to observe the 227th anniversary of our independence, the citizens of Keene will be celebrating the city's 250th birthday. It is therefore timely and appropriate that we recognize this great American community.

From its first settlement in the early 1700's until today, Keene has been the economic and cultural hub for the Monadnock region. The city's manufacturing and commercial companies have not only energized the local economy but have made significant contributions to our country. The Kingsbury Machine Tool Corporation, for example, was a key supplier of equipment during the Nation's involvement in World War II and the Korean War. The Faulkner and Colony Manufacturing Company is certainly one of the great industrial companies in our Country's history and its legacy is still being felt today. In addition to this central role as an economic engine, Keene has been an education leader. It is home to Keene State College, one of the our State's leading institutions of higher learning.

Of course, we cannot talk about this city without praising its most distinctive asset: the people of Keene. They have never been restrained in lending their talents and energies to any noble cause or to any effort that will strengthen the community's social fabric. Throughout its history, Keene's residents have demonstrated this commitment to their neighbors and their country. For example, upon hearing of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the town organized a celebration of this great news. Unfortu-

nately, they had no way of affixing the new American flag to the Liberty Pole, other than by climbing to the top, which was dangerous. A 9-year-old boy stepped out of the crowd and offered to take up this challenge. Witnesses said as the boy went higher, the pole started to bend. However, he made it and, as the crowd cheered, set the American Flag at the pole's highest reach. In February 1835, a Keene native, the Honorable John Dickson, delivered the first important anti-slavery speech ever made in the United States Congress. In 1892, John Henry Elliot donated the building which became the City's first modern hospital. During the Civil War, 584 men from Keene served; 48 gave their lives. Forty Keene residents fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Catherine Fiske opened the Young Ladies Seminary in Keene on May 1, 1814. This was the first boarding school in New Hampshire and just the second in the United States. Its reputation for educating the young women of Keene and of many other States in the country was unmatched in its day.

Horatio Colony, the city's first mayor in 1874, is one of a long line of talented public servants from Keene who have helped make New Hampshire such a great place to live. Today, the city is continuing this honorable tradition. The long-time dean of the New Hampshire State Senate, Clesson "Junie" Blaisdell, hailed from Keene. The sitting mayor, Michael E.J. Blastos, has been a long-time leader here. The current President of the New Hampshire State Senate, Tom Eaton, calls the city his home. In addition to guiding one half of New Hampshire's legislative body, Senator Eaton also serves as acting Governor of New Hampshire whenever the Governor is out of state or otherwise unable to perform the duties of the office. Born and raised in this region of the State, Senator Eaton represents all that is great about the City.

All of these people, and their stories, illustrate the can-do attitude and spirit of activism of Keene's people. With that, I am proud to honor and salute them as they celebrate the 250th birthday of Keene, NH, the Elm City of the Granite State. ●

TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN'S FIRST ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BRIGADE COMMANDER

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, the contributions of women in the U.S. Armed Forces stretches back to the battlefields of our Revolution and continues in the deserts of Iraq today.

But those contributions have not always been recognized.

Today, I rise to note another milestone for women in the military and pay tribute to COL Mandi Murray who recently became the first woman to command a brigade in Michigan's Army National Guard.

Colonel Murray now commands the 2,433 soldiers of the 63rd Troop Command based in Jackson, MI.