

man has achieved a truly auspicious honor: he has been named the valedictorian of West Point's class of 2003. In both word and deed, this is a young man who truly has lived up to the Army's challenge to "be all that you can be."

When the selection committee I have established to review potential service academy nominations forwarded Martin Pierce's name to me, I knew that he had the potential to be a fine selection. After all, he had been the 1999 valedictorian at UMS-Wright, formerly known as University Military School, which is a prestigious school in Mobile, AL. Additionally, he had the full support of his two loving parents, Bailey and Susann, who had obviously instilled a sense of duty, honor and commitment in their son. There was little doubt in my mind that the traits 2LT Pierce had exhibited up to that point in time would serve him well at West Point.

However, the same could be said of most of the 846 cadets who graduated alongside Martin in the class of 2003. The service academy's attract a special kind of applicant, and those that are accepted tend to be individuals of great capabilities. Therefore when someone achieves the kind of academic success that 2LT Pierce has, there is a special satisfaction that he has done so while placed among the best and brightest.

I would like to take a few moments to place Mr. Pierce's West Point record in perspective. He became valedictorian by posting a GPA of 4.086 in the field of electrical/chemical engineering, and he was a dean's list member throughout his time at the academy. He also was one of only 144 recipients of the Gold Star and Wreath. This honor required Martin to achieve distinguished cadet status and to also become a Superintendent's Individual Award winner. In order to qualify for the God Star, Martin had to not only maintain a GPA of 3.67 or greater, but he also had to excel in West Point's academic, military and physical programs.

And excel in these programs he did. In addition to his exceptional work in the classroom, 2LT Pierce was a 4 year member of the Army's Black Knights football team, where he lettered as an outside linebacker. His accomplishments on the field and in the classroom also led him to be recognized nationally when he was awarded the Home Depot Scholar Athlete Award during the December 7, 2002 telecast of the Army/Navy game.

If these achievements, weren't enough, Martin saved his best for last. On June 1, 2LT Pierce married the former Michelle Ann Czyz in a ceremony in West Point, NY. Who knows? Perhaps this union foreshadows another valedictorian in a future West Point class.

And so 2LT Martin Bailey Pierce has left a mark upon the U.S. Military Academy as indelible as the mark the service academy has left on him. In

doing so, he has come to exemplify the West Point's mission "to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country; professional growth throughout a career as an officer in the United States Army; and a lifetime of selfless service to the nation." I am proud he is an Alabamian, and proud to know that he will continue and add to our State's remarkable record of producing outstanding cadets and soldiers. I congratulate 2LT Pierce for his accomplishments, and look forward to what I am sure will be a career that will make all members of the long gray line proud.

LAO-HMONG DAY OF RECOGNITION

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today on National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day to commemorate those who served alongside the United States to protect democracy in Southeast Asia. Since 1995, the day of July 22nd has been celebrated as the Nation's official day recognizing the commitment and sacrifice of the Lao-Hmong people.

Beginning in the 1960s the United States recruited thousands of the Lao-Hmong citizens to fight against the Communist North Vietnamese Army. The United States relied heavily on support from the Lao-Hmong units to engage in direct combat with the adversary from 1960 to 1975. Although heavily outnumbered, the Lao-Hmong courageously battled to disrupt supply flows which ran along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

In the name of democracy, the Lao-Hmong protected U.S. personnel, defended U.S. Air Force radar installations, collected critical intelligence about enemy operations, and undertook rescue missions to save the lives of downed U.S. pilots. In doing so, the Lao-Hmong lost more than 35,000 lives and many more were seriously injured and disabled.

Decades of war separated the Lao-Hmong from their native land. Now the Lao-Hmong in these United States can call America their home. The great State of Wisconsin has over many years become a population center for the Lao-Hmong community. Now citizens of the United States, the Lao-Hmong contribute richly to our Wisconsin communities.

On July 22, 1995, the first National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day was celebrated in Denver, CO. This year, in my home State of Wisconsin, the city of Milwaukee has been chosen to host the 2003 celebration. The purpose of celebrating this historic day is to memorialize the departed and to honor the living for their valor in defense of freedom and democracy. While acknowledging and respecting the commitment the Lao-Hmong people gave the United States during the Vietnam War, we are honored to celebrate their lives today.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

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 Enhancement 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 Reedley, CA. On September 21, 2001, Abdo Ali Ahmed was killed after receiving a death threat and a hate note deriding his ethnicity. Ahmed was a 51-year-old Yemeni shopkeeper and father of eight. Before his murder, Ahmed had lived in California for 35 years.

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. •

HONORING THE OWYHEE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to offer congratulations to the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association on its 125th year celebration. This makes this organization the oldest cattle group in my home State of Idaho. From the original Owyhee Cattle and Horse Growers Association, which formed in 1878 to protect livestock from rustlers and Indians, to the association's present influential position on property rights, water rights, and grazing matters, it has been an effectively involved force in Idaho.

The Owyhee Cattlemen's Association has benefited from a long line of top-notch leaders, and it continues to be instrumental in representing the cattle industry in a variety of issue areas including rangeland monitoring, species issues, and environmental concerns. These are all far different from cattle rustling activities, but perhaps similar in economic effects on the cattle industry.

The association has also played a leading and pioneering role in negotiating agreements and initiatives that work towards the future viability and profitability of the entire grazing community. I particularly appreciate that it has recognized the strength of collaborative efforts in dealing with the multiple interest groups that are becoming stakeholders and hopefully partners in public land stewardship.

The past strength and resolve of the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association has served the cattle industry well, and will continue to ensure its place at the

discussions of future issues, as we advance into the next 100 years of public land grazing.

Once again, my congratulations to the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association and its members as it marks a milestone anniversary. It has an unprecedented history of accomplishments in the cattle industry. I send my very best wishes for its continued success in serving the Owyhee County constituent base and the entire Nation. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:30 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2210. An act to authorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2427. An act to reauthorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations for the reimportation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2210. An act to reauthorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 2427. An act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations for the reimportation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-242. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Hawaii relative to Title IX; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

Whereas, Title IX, recently renamed the Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act, was adopted in 1972 to prohibit gender discrimination in programs that receive federal funds; and

Whereas, Title IX's impact on athletics has led to a vast increase in girls' participation in high school athletics, college athletics, and women's professional athletics; and

Whereas, in 1972, fewer than thirty-two thousand women competed in intercollegiate athletics, women received only two percent of schools' athletic budgets, and athletic scholarships for women were nonexistent; and

Whereas, today, thanks to the doors opened by Title IX, high school female sports participation has increased eight hundred percent, from three hundred thousand in 1971 to 2,800,000 in 2002; and

Whereas, the number of college women participating in competitive athletics is nearly

five times as great as it was before Title IX; and

Whereas, while sports are the most visible benefit of Title IX, women's gains in college-level academics have been substantial; and

Whereas, Title IX's antidiscrimination provisions apply to every single aspect of education, including admissions and recruitment, comparable facilities, access to course offerings, access to schools of vocational education, counseling and counseling materials, financial assistance, student health and insurance benefits and services, housing, marital and parental status of students, physical education and athletics, education programs and activities, and employment, providing a fair and equal benefit for a generation of women; and

Whereas, girls and women who attended schools prior to Title IX experienced sex-segregated classes, denial of admissions to certain vocational education classes, lack of access to advanced mathematics and science courses, and overt discrimination in medical schools and other predominantly male institutions; and

Whereas, after Title IX women in post-secondary education shot up dramatically, rising from forty-four percent of all undergraduates in 1972 to fifty-six percent of all undergraduates today; and

Whereas, since the inception of Title IX, the amount of scholarship money for women has increased from \$100,000 in 1972 to \$179 million in 1997; and

Whereas, women made significant jumps in areas traditionally thought of as male, such as engineering, medicine, and law: in 1970 women earned 0.7 percent of bachelor's degrees in engineering while today women earn 20 percent of these degrees; and in 1972, women received only 9 percent of all medical degrees and 7 percent of all law degrees, whereas in 1996, women received 41 percent of all medical degrees and 44 percent of all law degrees, and

Whereas, Title IX has also benefited men and boys by eliminating the barriers and stereotypes that limit the opportunities and choices of both sexes; and

Whereas, the Bush administration has convened a Commission on Opportunity in Athletics to consider changes to Title IX; and

Whereas, this controversial commission has made recommendations that would seriously dilute the power of Title IX; and

Whereas, proponents of Title IX charge that the commission is an attempt to weaken the law after repeated court challenges over the past thirty years have failed; and

Whereas, Title IX is an Act of Congress and should not be subject to modification by an executive branch commission; and

Whereas, the people of Hawaii have experienced the great benefits of Title IX, the Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act, and strongly support its full implementation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2003, the Senate concurring, That the State of Hawaii urges Congress to maintain Title IX, the Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act, in its original form and to take a firm stand opposing any recommendations that would weaken it; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Education of the United States, President of the Senate of the United States Congress, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

POM-243. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of

Kentucky relative to a constitutional amendment allowing the exercise of religion in public places; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Ten Commandments appear over the bench where the United States Supreme Court Justices sit, thus showing the source from whence our laws and the government power of the state are derived; and

Whereas, America's colonial governments adopted the Ten Commandments not as an object of worship or an icon, but as the basis for their civil and criminal law, as illustrated on April 3, 1644, when the New Haven Colony Charter was adopted establishing that: "the judicial laws of God, as they were delivered to Moses be a rule to all courts in this jurisdiction"; and

Whereas, when signing the Declaration of Independence on August 2, 1776, Samuel Adams, the "Father of the Revolution" emphasized its Biblical presuppositions: "We have this day restored the Sovereign to whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in heaven and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His kingdom come"; and

Whereas, on August 20, 1789, Congressman Fisher Ames from Massachusetts proposed the wording of the First Amendment which was adopted by the House of Representatives in the first session of the Congress of the United States; and his writings clearly demonstrate that the Framers never intended the First Amendment to be so interpreted as to remove the Bible from the public buildings: "We are spending less time in the classroom on the Bible which should be the principal text in our schools . . ."; and

Whereas, in a letter dated August 18, 1790, President George Washington wrote to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, "All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship . . . May the children of the stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid"; and

Whereas, in his "Farewell Address of September 19, 1796, George Washington pointed out the connection between the faith of the Nation and its political prosperity when he declared, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports . . ."; and

Whereas, acknowledging the Bible as an integral part of the fabric of our society on September 11, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution to import 20,000 Bibles from Holland and Scotland, as the colonies were at war with England; and

Whereas, On May 29, 1845, the day before his death, President Andrew Jackson stated: "My lamp of life is nearly out, and the last glimmer has come. I am ready to depart when called. The Bible is true. The principles and statutes of the Holy Book have been the rule of my life, and I have tried to conform to its spirit as nearly as possible. Upon that scared volume I rest my hope for eternal salvation through the merits and blood of our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"; and

Whereas, President John Quincy Adams, the sixth President of the United States, wrote concerning the civil function of the Mosaic law. "The law given from Sinai was a civil and municipal as well as a moral and religious code: It contained many statutes . . . of universal application—laws essential to the existence of men in society and most of which have been enacted by every nation which ever professed any code of laws"; and

Whereas, in a June, 1778 letter to her son, John Quincy Adams, Abigail Adams reinforced noble values and a sense of ultimate