

the first National Guard unit to arrive on the scene following the attacks of September 11, 2001. In the hours after the attacks, the Battalion assisted medical teams treating the wounded and helped significantly in rescue and recovery operations. The Battalion worked through the night and into the morning of September 12th, when they were directed to secure the perimeter around Ground Zero. This mission continued for the next 315 days. During this time, Battalion soldiers were also deployed to secure the bridges and tunnels leading to and from Manhattan. Additionally, the unit's armory was the initial support center for family members of World Trade Center victims.

In closing, I ask that my colleagues also recognize and honor the tremendous courage of Lt. Gerard Baptiste, a Fighting 69th soldier who died on September 11th while on duty as a New York City Firefighter. Lt. Baptiste gave his life to help rescue those who were trapped in the north tower of the World Trade Center. I hope that Lt. Baptiste's friends, family and fellow soldiers will accept my sincere condolences for their loss.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my distinguished colleagues rise and pay tribute to the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry of the New York National Guard. All Americans should be grateful for the dedication demonstrated every day by both the men and women of the Fighting 69th and all of the brave soldiers serving in National Guard and Reserve units throughout our nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. AMOS CROOMS, JR.

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Amos Crooms, Jr., who passed away February 15, 2004.

Mr. Crooms spent most of his adult life in public service and his selfless dedication is an inspiration for us all. He enlisted in the Navy in 1959 and was assigned to the USS *Topeka* when it was deployed to respond to the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.

After Mr. Crooms' honorable discharge from the Navy in 1963 he returned to Detroit and joined the Detroit Police Department in 1967. He served on the front line of law enforcement by working in the newly created mini-stations on narcotics, undercover operations, and recruiting. As one of Detroit's finest, he received many citations for his 26 years of service.

Mr. Crooms' dedication to public service has inspired many of his family members and friends to pursue careers in public service. His devotion to his country, family, and the city of Detroit will be remembered, and the city is a better place for his contributions to the community.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to pay tribute to the life and work of Mr. Amos Crooms, Jr. and express my deepest condolences to his family and to all who knew and loved him.

IN RECOGNITION OF MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Minority Cancer Awareness Week. This national campaign was initiated by Congress in 1987 to heighten awareness of the unequal hardship of cancer borne by racial and ethnic minority populations and other medically underserved communities.

Despite all the progress that has been made in the battle against cancer a disproportionate burden of cancer continues to plague a number of populations. For instance:

African-American men have the highest rate of prostate cancer in the world and the lowest rate of survival. The head of the American Cancer Society, Charles J. McDonald, MD, says: "Black men in America are 1.5 times more likely to develop prostate cancer and are 2 to 3 times more likely to die of the disease than white men."

Cancer is the leading cause of death for Asian American women.

Even controlling for poverty level, African American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian American and Pacific Islander men all have a lower 5-year survival rate than non-Hispanic white males.

The consequences of inadequate access to preventive services and early detection are that diseases like cancer are more often diagnosed at later stages when the severity is likely to be greater and options for treatment, as well as the odds of survival, are decreased.

The American Cancer Society urges more education about all forms of cancer and stronger involvement of community grassroots organizations, particularly in underserved minority communities, to engage in advocacy and in education and patient support initiatives.

I urge us all to heed the recommendations of the American Cancer Society because the future of America as a whole will be influenced substantially by our success in improving the health of minorities and other medically underserved populations.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO EXTEND THE FARM CREDIT ACT OF 1971 TO THE FISHING INDUSTRY

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, the Farm Credit Act of 1971 allows the Farm Credit Administration to oversee and regulate banks and associations to provide long-term and short-term credit and financial services to farmers, ranchers, producers, and commercial fishermen in all 50 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. In many parts of the country, Farm Credit is an important and significant lender to the farming and commercial fishing industry. Over one-fourth of the total credit used by farmers and fishermen derives from the FCA through a network of Farm Credit Banks, Federal Land Banks, Production

Credit Associations, and Banks for Cooperatives.

Under the current law, Farm Credit institutions are also authorized to finance individuals furnishing farm-related services related to their operating needs including custom fertilizers, irrigation installation, and land leveling services. It has been brought to my attention by a local Farm Credit institution in my District that a similar authorization to provide credit and financial services for individuals furnishing services to producers and harvesters of aquatic products does not exist. As a result of this limitation, Farm Credit institutions are not authorized to finance businesses such as boat repair shops, net makers, ice suppliers, or dock operations that provide necessary services for commercial fisherman.

This omission in the Farm Credit Act means that Farm Credit institutions cannot serve the commercial fishing industry in the same manner that they currently serve the farming industry. The Farm Credit Act clearly states that it includes fishermen, but then does not go on to include those who support the industry in the same way it includes those that support the farming industry.

An amendment is needed to the Farm Credit Act to authorize Farm Credit institutions to serve businesses that provide services related to the operating needs of producers and harvesters of aquatic products. This bill would extend the Farm Credit Act to numerous commercial fishing industry providers such as boat repair shops and dock operators that provide the necessary business needs to these fishermen.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

REINTRODUCTION OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the bipartisan Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2003, along with Representatives PELOSI, SKELTON, FRANK, BALDWIN, ROS-LEHTINEN, KOLBE, FOLEY, SHAYS, and more than 170 other original cosponsors.

There is no more important time in the history of this Nation, since the civil rights era, to pass legislation that sanctions hate violence. The FBI has reported a dramatic increase in hate motivated violence since the September 11 terrorist attacks which has sent a wave of fear through our immigrant communities. While the overall crime rate has grown by approximately 2 percent, the number of reported hate crimes have increased dramatically from 8,063 in 2000 to 9,730 in 2001, a 20.7 percent increase.

Although it is unclear how many of the 2001 reported hate crimes were directed at individuals in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, we do know that the number of reported "anti-Islamic" crimes increased from 28 in 2000 to 481 in 2001, which represents an increase of over 1600 percent. In addition, the number of hate crimes directed at individuals on the basis of their national origin/ethnicity more than doubled—from 911 in 2000 to

2,098 in 2001. Racial bias again represented the largest percentage of bias-motivated incidents (44.9 percent), followed by Ethnic/National Origin Bias (21.6 percent), Religious Bias (18.8 percent), Sexual Orientation Bias (14.3 percent), and Disability Bias (0.4 percent).

While many of these crimes do and should get prosecuted at the State and local levels, many do not. Current law limits Federal jurisdiction over hate crimes to incidents that occur during the exercise of federally protected activities, such as voting, and does not permit Federal involvement in a range of cases involving crimes motivated by bias against the victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability. This loophole is particularly significant given the fact that four States have no hate crime laws on the books, and another 21 States have extremely weak hate crimes laws.

If enacted, this legislation would give the Federal Government the jurisdictional tools necessary to assist local law enforcement in fighting the scourge of hate violence. In instances where State and local governments do not have the capacity to prosecute such crimes, the legislation creates a Federal backstop—the ability for the local U.S. attorney to ensure that justice will be done, deterring hate violence regardless of whether the victim happened to be engaged in a “federally protected” activity. And even in those cases, Federal prosecution can only proceed if approved by the Attorney General.

The gruesome, hateful murders of James Byrd and Matthew Shepard remain symbols of the incidence of hate violence that have only worsened since their deaths. Hate crimes do not only visit unspeakable violence on the immediate victims, but also send a message of a desired apartheid that its sponsors want to violently enforce.

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2004 is a constructive and measured response to a problem that continues to plague our Nation—violence motivated by prejudice. Our primary desire here is to ensure that these crimes get prosecuted by State and local governments more effectively. That's why the bill authorizes funds to support State investigative and prosecutorial efforts. The bill is not and should not be treated as a partisan exercise. As a Congress, we should be in unanimous agreement that there will be “zero-tolerance” for the hate. This bill takes the first step in that direction.

ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF CALVARY CATHEDRAL INTERNATIONAL, THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASTOR BOB NICHOLS' MINISTRY, AND THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF PASTOR AND MRS. NICHOLS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding church, an outstanding pastor and a great couple in my district. On Sunday, April 18, 2004 Calvary Cathedral International celebrates the 40th anniversary of its founding by Pastor Bob Nichols

and his wife, Joy. On this day, Pastor Nichols also celebrates his 50th anniversary in full time ministry and the upcoming 50th wedding anniversary of Pastor Nichols and Joy.

Through Calvary Cathedral, Pastor Nichols and Joy touch the lives of thousands of people not only in Fort Worth, but throughout the world. With integrity and outstanding character, Pastor Nichols and Joy daily help the less fortunate and hungry, as well as the many people who make up their congregation.

To appreciate the high esteem in which Calvary Cathedral and Pastor and Mrs. Nichols are held today, one must understand the humble beginnings from which they come.

In 1964, after 10 years in full time ministry, God called Pastor Nichols to start a church where all faiths were welcome and members of the church could grow in faith. With no members or financial resources, Pastor Nichols started Calvary Cathedral in an old post office building. By 1976, Calvary Cathedral had grown to the point that the congregation purchased a historic, 2,000-seat church on the banks of the Trinity River. That site was home to Calvary until it was destroyed by a tornado on March 28, 2000. In 2001, Calvary elected to purchase the Midtown Church of Christ facility. The existing facilities and property, as well as the construction of a new facility for the Calvary Christian Academy, is enabling Pastor Nichols, Joy and the congregation to reach out to even more people.

As pastor and president of Calvary Cathedral International, Pastor Nichols administers a wide range of ministries that includes the Calvary Christian Academy, the Calvary Day Care, Calvary Cathedral International Bible School, the Calvary daily Faith, Hope and Love radio show, the Calvary jail and prison ministry, the Stitches central city outreach program and a foreign missionary outreach. Through Lighthouse Television, Ltd., Pastor Nichols reaches out with his message to residents of Uganda. Not only does Pastor Nichols use the blessing of Calvary Cathedral to reach out to people, he is renowned for his stewardship to other ministers, which has earned him the title “Pastor to Pastors.”

Pastor Nichols and Joy demonstrated their deep faith and their trust in God to carry forth during the Tornado of 2000 by being positive about the tragedy that struck the church and the Fort Worth community that day. They used the disaster to instill hope and trust among church members and Fort Worth residents, alike.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize a church that has contributed so much to not only Fort Worth, but to the world. And it is my honor to praise the leadership and compassion that Pastor Nichols and his wife Joy have exhibited during their 40 years of ministry at Calvary Cathedral International.

INVESTING IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for investment in the infrastructure that provides our citizens with clean and safe water. Our Nation's com-

munities are facing enormous needs in their effort to safeguard human health and the environment and to comply with Federal environmental mandates. The wastewater investment needs in our cities, counties, towns and townships are far greater than the amount of money now being made available at the local, state, and federal levels. The GAO, the EPA and the Water Infrastructure Network have all found shortfalls in wastewater infrastructure funding over the next 20 years in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

It is critical for the federal government to do more to help meet these needs. Local ratepayers already pay 90 percent of the burden and face rising water and sewer rates every year. The federal government must once again become a partner with local and state governments to provide the necessary funds to protect our watersheds and citizens.

Additional investment in the Nation's water and sewer systems also creates jobs for Americans. For every \$1 billion spent on water and wastewater construction, 42,000 jobs are created. Billions of dollars are needed to help keep our water infrastructure strong and sound. The President requested \$3.7 billion for water and sewer projects in Iraq, highlighting its critical importance to a working society. Yet we are neglecting our own wastewater systems here at home.

We should not allow another Earth Day to pass without making a firm commitment to our citizens and our communities. The federal government must become a full partner and provide its share of the billions of dollars that are needed to safeguard the integrity of our Nation's water and wastewater infrastructure.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENT OIL PRODUCERS' AGENCY

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Independent Oil Producers' Agency IOPA, which IOPA will be celebrating on April 30. Specifically, I want to congratulate them for all that they have accomplished and to wish them well as they begin their second century.

Many people do not realize the incredible amount of oil and natural gas production in the State of California and particularly Kern County, which I represent. The magnitude of California's production is apparent when one considers that in 2002, California's 210 active fields and 47,135 wells produced 289.5 million barrels of oil, more than every state but Louisiana, Texas, and Alaska. It is also apparent when one considers that over 26.8 billion barrels of oil have been extracted from California wells and that California's estimated oil reserves are 3.7 billion barrels. In addition, in 2002, California's 1,232 natural gas wells produced 366 billion cubic feet of natural gas, and California's cumulative natural gas production is 37.1 trillion cubic feet. It is hardly an overstatement to say that California's energy production has been and is vital to the American economy.

However, none of this incredible production would have been realized without the hard