

fire while conducting combat operations in the Al Anbar Province.

He was assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, 7th Marine Regiment, first Marine Division, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, CA.

He was from Alameda, CA.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JOSELITO O.

VILLANUEVA, AGE 36

Sergeant First Class Villanueva died September 27 in Balad, Iraq when he was at an observation post and was shot by a sniper.

He was assigned to the 9th Engineer Battalion, first Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

He was from Los Angeles, CA.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS KENNETH L. SICKELS, AGE 20

Private First Class Sickels died September 27 in Al Anbar Province.

He was assigned to first Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, first Marine Division, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, CA. He was from Apple Valley, CA.

Two hundred and eighty three soldiers who were either from California or based in California have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. I pray for these young Americans and their families.

LIEUTENANT DAVID KINGSLEY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in just a couple of weeks, on October 23, a memorial will be erected by villagers and family member at Suhozem, Bulgaria to honor one of our Nation's brave soldiers and one of Oregon's native sons, Lt. Kingsley. Today, I wish to take a few minutes to remember Lt. Kingsley and share his story of great courage and sacrifice.

The story of Lt. David Kingsley is emblematic of the strength and pioneering spirit of the earliest Oregonians. Lt. Kingsley was born and raised in Portland, OR and graduated from Benson High School. Prior to enlisting in the Air Force, he worked in the disaster unit of the Portland Fire Bureau—always committed to the service of his community and country. During the Second World War, he went to pilot training, and then served as a bombardier in a B-17F. He was assigned to the 341st Bomb Squadron, 97th Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force.

On June 23, 1944, he was on Mission No. 295, flying out of Amendola airfield in Foggia, Italy against the Dacia Oil Refinery in Ploesti, Romania. While on the bombing run, the right wing of his aircraft was hit by enemy fire. His aircraft took 15 strikes, crippling it as it flew over Bulgaria. The attack injured several members of the aircrew, including the tail-gunner. Lt. Kingsley had to remove the tail-gunner's damaged parachute to provide first-aid.

An order to bailout was given; the Lieutenant gave his parachute to the injured tail-gunner and reminded him to pull the ripcord. The last airman exiting the crippled aircraft remembers seeing Lt. Kingsley standing in the

bomb bay of the plane, making sure all of his fellow crew were out of the plane first. Because of Lt. Kingsley's previous flying experience, he jumped into the pilot's seat and tried to regain control of the aircraft, which descended and circled the field in an attempt to land. Witnesses reported seeing the aircraft dive steeply and crash in a field just north of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Lt. Kingsley never got out alive. For his extreme bravery he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Today, one of the Oregon Air Guard's F-15 units is based in southern Oregon at Kingsley Field, named in Lt. Kingsley's honor. This year marked the 60th anniversary of that fateful day and of Kingsley's heroism.

At a time when so many young men and women from Oregon and all across the Nation are fighting overseas, we honor their service. And we must also remember to honor the service of these veterans—some of whom, like Lt. Kingsley, have made the ultimate sacrifice—so that we can live in freedom and continue to pursue our dreams. We do not forget and will not forget them, and we are forever grateful for their honorable service to and sacrifices for our Nation.

SERGEANT JOSHUA J. SKVOR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of a fellow Iowan and a dedicated serviceman, Sergeant Joshua J. Skvor, of Cedar Rapids, IA. It is my sad duty to inform the Senate that Sgt. Skvor, a member of the Iowa National Guard, lost his life when the truck he was driving was involved in a collision with another vehicle north of Amana, IA. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family and friends. Sgt. Skvor was assigned to the Iowa Army National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 234th Signal Battalion, stationed in Cedar Rapids. He is survived by his mother and father, Rachel and Joseph Skvor. They can be very proud of their son.

Though not currently serving on Federal active duty, Sgt. Skvor had recently returned from a 14-month deployment in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As we mourn his tragic loss, it is fitting that we pay tribute to his service to his country. He will be missed by his fellow soldiers as well as all those who knew him.

CORRAL DRIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the Corral Drive Elementary School in Rapid City for being recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a "Blue Ribbon School."

The Federal Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels. Corral Drive Elementary School clearly meets those high standards. Last year, 90 percent of its students were proficient or

advanced in reading, and 84 percent were proficient or advanced in math.

South Dakota also has one other Blue Ribbon School this year: The Challenge Center School in Sioux Falls.

If you visit Corral Drive Elementary School—as I had the pleasure of doing last spring—it's clear why the school is so successful. It is a lively place where each child's spark of curiosity is nurtured and valued. The walls are covered with students' work and teachers and parents are eager to talk about the children's progress. Overseeing it all is a thoughtful and energetic principal, Mrs. Nancy Whitcher.

Like communities across America, Rapid City has had to cut a number of programs for students, in order to meet budget constraints as well as the new mandates in the No Child Left Behind Act. The fact that Corral Drive Elementary School has achieved such success in the face of such significant challenges makes the Blue Ribbon School designation all the more impressive. Parents, teachers, administrators and everyone in the Corral Drive community can be very proud of Blue Ribbon School designation and, more importantly, of everything they are doing to make sure that their children have the opportunity to develop their God-given skills and abilities.

Education is something South Dakotans take very seriously, and we are proud of how well our schools are doing. About three-quarters of our children demonstrated proficient on the latest No Child Left Behind exams, and our state ranks among the top 10 in the country on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Good, strong public schools like Corral Drive are pillars of hope. They are also the cornerstone of American democracy. They are what has helped America create the most innovative, powerful economy the world has ever known. It's important to let our educators and parents know that we value their efforts and celebrate their successes. So today, I am pleased to send my congratulations to the educators and families of the Corral Drive school. Keep up the great work!

CONGRATULATIONS ON 30 YEARS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this month we celebrate an important milestone in South Dakota: The opening of the first Super 8 Motel.

In 1974, the first Super 8 Motel opened in my hometown of Aberdeen, SD. This motel is a pioneer of the economy motel industry, and a perfect example of entrepreneurial success. In its first year of operation, Super 8 showed that its founders, Dennis Brown and Ron Rivett, were surpassing their goals by leaps and bounds—one year after its first motel opened, an additional three motels sprang up in the cities of Pierre, Mitchell, and Yankton. This unprecedented growth continued, and today, in Super 8's thirtieth year of operation, this small business venture

has resulted in over 2,000 motels opening throughout the United States and Canada.

Super 8's success is predicated on the core operating values that Dennis and Ron instilled in their employees and motel owners: cleanliness, efficiency, and friendly service. From its inception, the founders and board members continually strived to better serve their customers. Some examples of their strong commitment to customer service are the implementation of one of the first toll-free reservation lines in the early 1970s and the VIP club, which currently has over 7.5 million members.

I will never forget when I returned home to Aberdeen and saw the first Super 8 Motel: a two story stucco building on Sixth Avenue, Southeast. At that time, very few people could conceive that this start-up business would reshape the hospitality industry. Thankfully, Dennis and Ron had the plan and the motivation to realize their goals and make believers out of ordinary folks in need of a place to stay on the road.

After my stays at Super 8 Motels, it was clear that this company was destined for greatness. Super 8 is a true American success story, which could not have been achieved without the hard work and determination of Dennis, Ron, and all of their hard-working staff. I am confident that Super 8 will continue to grow for many years to come, and I wish to extend my congratulations to everyone that has been involved in this monumental effort over the past 30 years.

JAPAN AND BURMA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it has come to my attention that since October of last year, the Government of Japan has funded at least 28 new projects in Burma totaling more than \$18 million. Some of these funds appear to have been provided directly to the illegitimate and repressive State Peace and Development Council, SPDC.

A question many of my colleagues may be asking is: Why is Japan providing assistance to Burma and the thugs in Rangoon when Burmese democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other members and supporters of the National League for Democracy, NLD, remain imprisoned?

I wish I knew the answer.

Providing assistance to Burma and the SPDC sends exactly the wrong message at the wrong time. Assistance to the junta prolongs the suffering of the Burmese people and props up an illegitimate regime, headed by Than Swe, which has tortured, murdered and raped with impunity.

It is time Japan gets with the program and pressures the SPDC to begin meaningful reconciliation with the NLD—the only legitimately elected leadership of that country.

Freedom needs Japan's help in Burma.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CLATIS WALKER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a valued educator in my State who is retiring in November after more than 30 years of service to the youth of Kentucky, Mr. Clatis Walker.

The education profession is one that people seem to take for granted from time to time in our society, but its importance cannot be overlooked. The impact educators have on future generations is paramount. This responsibility is made all the greater when the focus is on children with special needs. Mr. Walker has taken this responsibility and welcomed it throughout his career.

In 1972, Mr. Walker began his career as a special education teacher in Montgomery County, KY. Six years later, he became a field service consultant for the Bureau of Education for Exceptional Children for the Kentucky Department of Education.

Mr. Walker jumped back into the classroom in 1980 when he accepted the position as Special Education Work Study Program coordinator and Athletics Director at Bourbon County High School. In 1982, he returned to Montgomery County, where he began his teaching career. He spent the next 9 years serving in several capacities including, special education coordinator, early childhood coordinator, chairman of the Northeastern Bluegrass Education Cooperative Project, and Assistant Principal at J.B. McNabb Middle School.

A change in profession occurred in 1991 when he left the education field to become an assistant vice president at Montgomery Traders Bank, where he was a loan specialist. His absence in the Montgomery County school system was noticed and in 1993, Mr. Walker returned as the Director of Special Education and the Director of Public Relations.

In 1999, he was named the Executive Director of the Central Kentucky Special Education Cooperative. This cooperative aims to enhance the educational opportunities for its students by allowing the Kentucky Department of Education, school districts, and state universities to work together. The important work of this cooperative has taken place because of the leadership of Mr. Walker.

Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing the career of this outstanding Kentuckian, Mr. Clatis Walker.

HONORING LUCES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Lo Nuestro de Latinos Unidos Celebrando Salud, LUCES, or the Latino HIV/AIDS Task Force of Clark County, NV for its efforts to promote National Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

The 2nd Annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day will mark the

last day of Hispanic Heritage Month, an annual celebration in which we recognize the tremendous contributions of our Nation's Latino community. This day will focus attention on an important health challenge facing the Latino community, and on how we can help the community overcome this challenge.

Latinos account for 14 percent of all HIV infection cases and 15 percent of AIDS cases in Clark County. It is critical that we stop the spread of this terrible disease. The dedication of LUCES to educating and advocating on this important issue in Clark County is commendable.

I would like to take a moment to recognize several individuals for their hard work and strong commitment on this issue: Cheryl Ballard, Marcia English, Cherie Filler-Maietta, Robbie Keeley, Ernesto Martinez, Julie McCain, Keanu Medina, Molly Puno, Elias Zamorano, and Louise Zuniga.

Please join me in congratulating the members of LUCES for their work to promote public health, and in wishing them great success in their future endeavors.

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.

On October 4, 2000, in LaCrosse, WI, Jason Welch and Jason Elisius, both 21, were charged with a hate crime for allegedly violently targeting two gay men because of their sexual orientation.

I believe that the 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.

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the assistance and support one soldier's family has shown him during his 26 years of service in the United States Army. Lieutenant Colonel Andy Lucas, currently serving with J37, Joint Task Force Global Network Operations, is the oldest of Andrew and Shirley Lucas' five children. The entire family attend the University of Arkansas, making me particularly proud because that is my alma mater, and Mr. Lucas and three of his children have bravely served our country in the military.

Lieutenant Colonel Lucas wrote to me on the occasion of his retirement