

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

and asked that I write to each of his family members in an effort to show them how grateful he is for their love and support over the last 26 year. He writes.

My family is fantastic, personal bias aside. Throughout my entire time in the military, they have always been there to support me and provide that emotional stability during deployments in both peace and crisis. Everything that I have accomplished in the military and in life can be attributed to the upbringing, love, and support by my parents coupled with the love and support from my brothers and sister. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful family . . .

Our country is blessed to have you, too, Andrew and Shirley Lucas; Ernest and Carole Lucas; Lieutenant Colonel John and Coleen, John Jr., Kevin, Bryan, and Andrea Lucas; Jim and Cathy, Linden and Weston Spalding; Thomas and Sara, Darcy and Will Lucas; and April Kulda-Lucas and Christopher Drew, LTC Lucas' wife and son. It is extremely hard on our men and women in uniform to deal with the ups and downs of military life, but it is family members like you that help them through it, which is why I am happy to honor LTC Lucas' request and say thank you for your service to our country.

PASSAGE OF H.R. 5149

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, last week the Senate passed yet another short-term extension of the 1996 welfare law. This marks the eighth temporary extension—and the third year we have been unable to improve this program that serves millions of needy families. I rise today to express my disappointment that improving this legislation has not been realized because of efforts by some of my colleagues to undermine the principles and goals of reform.

I think we can all agree that welfare reform has been one of the most successful social policy reforms in U.S. history. The 1996 welfare reform legislation made remarkable headway in helping welfare dependents move toward self-sufficiency. It dramatically reduced State welfare caseloads, reduced child poverty, and increased employment. But there is still room for improvement.

It is a misfortune that we had to pass yet another short-term extension that doesn't give States the certainty they need to best plan for the future. We passed this welfare extension because we had to—it bought us another 6 months in the hopes that we can finally act on a broader welfare reform bill in the 109th Congress.

We want more welfare recipients to prepare for work, which is the true path off welfare. We want to help more parents marry or stay married, which helps them and helps their children. We want to help more parents get ready for full-time work, which is what it takes to lift families out of poverty.

We want to provide more child care, so more parents can go to work knowing their children are cared for and safe.

In 2003, I worked tirelessly with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to produce a comprehensive welfare reform bill that enjoyed substantial Democratic support. Many of the provisions in the bill we should have passed in March reflected the provisions in the 2003 bill. This further underscores my frustration with the Senate Democrats' failure to support a comprehensive reauthorization bill, and in effect, force both bodies to fund welfare programs through a series of short-term extensions, without any further improvements.

Welfare reform has saved taxpayers money, but it has not been free. It will not be free in the future. The welfare reform bill we tried to pass 6 months ago included meaningful reforms and resources needed to help more low-income parents go to work. We understand that parents need to know they have access to quality child care, and the bill included an additional \$6 billion—for a total of \$7 billion—in child care funding to support the efforts of working families who need help with this essential assistance.

I have seen in my home State of Utah, that many of these parents, hardworking people, young and old, end up finding great self-satisfaction in giving their gift of skill at work, at giving themselves to a task at hand so thoroughly, that they have a meaningful relationship with their work. I think we will all agree that sometimes it isn't easy to dive into your work with enthusiasm. But sometimes this is necessary and appropriate. That is why I would like to talk a little bit about its importance, that work requirements are increased.

The increased work requirements in H.R. 4 would have changed the core work requirement from 20 hours per week to 24 hours per week. Total hours required for a state to receive full credit would have increased from 30 hours per week to 34 hours per week for single-parent families. Now these are sensible, reasonable requirements. Two-parent families would have been required to work 39 hours per week, or 55 hours per week if they received subsidized child care. States would have received partial credit if individuals worked 20 hours per week, and extra credit if they worked more than 34 hours per week. Current law provides full credit only at 30 hours.

Again, I think these modifications could have made real progress. The more a person sets goals and takes responsibility for the career they want, they will better be able to decide if a particular job fits into the scheme of their life. The harder you work, that is the more hours you work, the more you understand why you're working at a particular job and how your hard work is going to benefit you.

Another important provision in H.R. 4 was the establishment of a meaning-

ful State participation rate. For years now, States have had no real Federal requirements to actively recruit adults into industrious work and work related activities. Under H.R. 4, States would have been required to have 70 percent of their caseload involved in approved work activities by 2008. It is important to know that most States currently have less than 50 percent of their caseloads in approved, full-time, work-related activities. Several states are below 25 percent. Requirements would oblige States to significantly ramp up their efforts to engage a much greater number of families in activities that count toward the work participation rate.

Right now, the majority of adults receiving assistance are reporting zero hours of activity. I think it is time we recognize that an effective participation rate, and by the elimination of the caseload reduction credit in the 1996 welfare law, we will encourage people to commit, to careers, to goals, to real recovery. Just half-heartedly trying will not enable a person to succeed, but committing yourself will.

For the sake of the millions of families that remain in the welfare system, we should have been able to come to a final agreement that would have helped Americans achieve independence and a brighter future.

Again, I am very frustrated that we have caved to the passage of another short-term placeholder extension. Unfortunately, the remarkable improvements included in H.R. 4 will remain on hold while we continue to kick the ball down the field.

As time passes, budget pressures will only squeeze tighter and tighter. The additional help we could have offered will become only harder to come by.

WORLD FOOD DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to join people from more than 150 nations in celebrating October 16 as World Food Day.

World Food Day brings much-needed attention to hunger and malnutrition around the world. Inadequate nutrition is an unrelenting global health threat. Over 840 million people in the world are hungry, including more than 300 million children.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has worked for 59 years to help both developed and developing nations create their own sustainable food supply.

Because of the organization's achievements, many people who did not know where their next meal would come from can now live healthy and productive lives. Workers from the Food and Agriculture Organization have assisted farmers in Swaziland with growing new crops to combat problems of hypertension and sugar diabetes. They have offered alternatives to more than 2000 poor coca farmers in Bolivia, helping to curb the production of cocaine. Recently, the organization