

ARUBA AND COUNTER-TERRORISM
FINANCING

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Government of Aruba, a leader in the fight to stop the flow of terrorist funds in the Caribbean and Latin America. There can be no doubt that terrorism is the defining challenge of the Nation since 9-11. While I have always believed that the United States must boldly and confidently lead the way in this brutal war we find ourselves in, I believe that help from our allies is essential to stop the financial networks that support terrorism.

One of the most important fronts in the war on terror concerns the funding mechanisms that support terrorist activities, including underground financial systems, illicit charities, and corrupt financial service providers. Financiers, fundraisers, or donors who provide financial support to terrorists need to be stopped.

Earlier this year, I had met with the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mr. Nelson Oduber. We discussed the international threat of terrorism and a number of other issues. Prime Minister Oduber stressed his nation's support for stopping terrorism and his determination in stopping money laundering and terrorist financing in his nation.

In fact, Aruba's leadership in this field started in 1990 when it hosted what became known as the Aruba Drug Money Laundering Conference, a regional mirror of the Financial Action Task Force—FATF—launched at the Paris G-7 summit of 1989. This started a process, which eventually led to the creation of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force—CFATF—an organization that now plays a key role in the War on Terror. On October 30, 2001, the FATF adopted eight special recommendations on terrorist financing and Aruba has moved to implement some of those recommendations.

I pay tribute today to Aruba for joining the United States of America in the War on Terror.

SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, as a former Sacramento County, CA, sheriff's deputy, I have, throughout my congressional career, zealously sought to ensure the safety and effectiveness of America's Federal, tribal, State and local law enforcement officers. I have also worked hard to promote a better understanding and appreciation of law enforcement's extraordinary service and sacrifice by the American public.

Underscoring this commitment, I was proud to have authored a number of important laws, including the National Law Enforcement Museum Act (P.L. 106-492); the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-277); the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act (P.L. 106-517); the Cops in School Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-302) and the resolution passed each year to designate May 15 as Na-

tional Peace Officers Memorial Day. I want to take this opportunity to also commend my deputy chief of staff and legislative director, Larry Vigil, for all of his good work in getting these important initiatives passed on behalf of law enforcement.

As I conclude my tenure in the U.S. Senate, I challenge my colleagues and those who will follow in my footsteps to continue this valuable and necessary work to support those brave individuals who are putting their lives at risk each and every day for our safety and protection. There are currently some 870,000 sworn law enforcement officers serving our Nation. Each year, on average, 167 officers are killed in the line of duty—that is one officer killed somewhere in America every 53 hours. Roughly 58,000 officers are assaulted each year, resulting in about 17,000 injuries. It is the most dangerous profession in our Nation, and also one of the most important.

An inscription on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, just a few blocks from here in a place called Judiciary Square, says it best: "In valor there is hope." As long as there are men and women among us who are willing to put their lives on the line for others, there is indeed great hope for this Nation of ours.

But, it must be remembered that our officers cannot do their job effectively or safely without the necessary resources. This means the best possible training and equipment, especially bullet-resistant vests for every officer. Studies have clearly shown that these vests save police lives. In fact, nearly 3,000 police lives have been saved by bullet resistant vests since they first started being used some 30 years ago.

But, another vital resource that our officers need is the trust and support of the American public they serve. That is why one of my proudest achievements as a legislator and former law enforcement officer was authoring the law to establish a National Law Enforcement Museum here in our Nation's capital. The U.S. Department of Justice has determined that only about one out of five Americans has any direct contact with a law enforcement officer during the course of a normal year, and most of those contacts are traffic stops. The fact is that most of our citizens draw their conclusions about law enforcement from the fictional works of Hollywood and the often sensationalized reporting by the media. Most Americans do not truly understand, nor fully appreciate the tremendous worth of the law enforcement profession to our Nation.

But all of that will soon change when the doors of the National Law Enforcement Museum open, which is expected to happen in 2009. Finally, we will have a popular destination here in Washington, DC, devoted to telling law enforcement's true story of selfless service and supreme sacrifice. Through some of the most entertaining and stimulating exhibit ideas I have ever

seen for a museum, visitors will experience what it is like to walk in the shoes of a police officer, and to make split-second, life-or-death decisions. They will understand the vital roles our officers played in every pivotal moment of our Nation's history, including the taming of the Wild West, and the wars against gangsters, drug lords and now, terrorists. In short, this museum will vastly increase public understanding and support for law enforcement, and the museum's research repository will contribute greatly to promoting police safety. It will truly be a must-see destination in our Nation's capital and, appropriately, it will be located right across the street from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

I want to commend Craig W. Floyd, the chairman of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, his talented staff and dedicated board of directors for working so hard to make this museum a reality, just like they made the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial a reality in 1991. Neither of these projects would be successful, though, without the generous funding provided by citizens and corporations across this country and I am grateful to see that support pouring in for the museum.

I pledge my continued full support for this museum project and I challenge my colleagues to do the same. That means ensuring that during the public approval process the integrity and importance of this museum as a major visual presence in Judiciary Square must not be compromised in any way.

Those dedicated public servants of the law enforcement profession—especially the more than 16,500 officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of duty, and their families—deserve no less.

ELDER JUSTICE ACT

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I wish to commend Senator JOHN BREAUX and his staff for their excellent work on the Elder Justice Act. They have worked long and hard on this legislation, and I share their strong desire to see it pass the Senate this year.

I would like to share the comments I received from two Florida attorneys, Nick Cox and Mark Shalloway, who have extensive knowledge and experience in elder justice issues.

Nick Cox is a professor at the Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg, where he specializes in elder consumer protection matters and works on a special Federal project within the Elder Law Center. Mr. Cox, a former State prosecutor, worked for Attorneys General Bob Butterworth and Charlie Crist as their acting central Florida regional deputy and bureau chief of the Economic Crimes Division, which is the Florida Attorney General's consumer protection unit. Mr. Cox's comments are as follows:

I feel very strongly about passage of this act from a consumer protection standpoint. At this time I have been researching criminal elder exploitation issues and have found that there is a complete lacking in good support research. Despite several attempts to get a statistical handle on how bad criminal exploitation of the elderly is, the reports that have been done have been consistently criticized or found to be scientifically/statistically deficient. The Elder Justice Act calls for such research to be done on a national level and would provide the needed data that could assist those of us in the field of identifying the primary issues and hopefully some suggestions for solutions to the problem.

I also am very excited about the call in the Elder Justice Act for nationwide centers of excellence for study into these matters. We have already begun such work here at Stetson, but we can only address it on a regional basis here given the magnitude of our senior populations in Florida and throughout the Southeast United States. However, the work we have done so far has been very well received and applauded by those in the aging network. I think the Elder Justice Act would also give us some significant strides forward in that respect as well.

I also, as a former prosecutor, appreciate the attention it seems to give to increasing prosecutions. From the exploitation standpoint, I have experienced the positive outcome of criminally charging scam artists and the resulting change in business practices in that area. My office conducted undercover sting operations with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Once we convinced a prosecutor to charge a few of the salesmen and business owners who were targeting and scaring seniors into buying unneeded and overpriced equipment, there was an immediate change in the manner in which other companies conducted business.

Anything we can do to encourage or mandate criminal prosecutions will be a positive step. I think the Elder Justice Act starts us in the right direction.

Mark Shalloway is a practicing attorney in West Palm Beach and has extensive experience in elder abuse and exploitation. Mr. Shalloway's comments are as follows:

Elder Law attorneys, including my Florida colleagues see a great deal of elder abuse and financial exploitation on a weekly to monthly basis in our offices. The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) is one of the five founding members of the Elder Justice Coalition that has worked for several years to get this piece of legislation passed. Senator Breaux and other supporters, like yourself, deserve much credit for keeping this bill on the front burner during a year when few bills have been addressed.

The revised version of S. 333 that the Finance Committee has marked up is not as comprehensive as the original bill, but is a great starting point and should be passed by the full Senate as soon as possible.

As a Long-Term Care Ombudsman in Florida, I am anecdotally aware of the difficulties in identifying and prosecuting crimes against the elderly. This Act should give greater recognition to a silent but huge and growing problem.

I agree with the comments of Mr. Cox and Mr. Shalloway, and have thus strongly supported passage of the Elder Justice Act.

During Finance Committee deliberations of the Elder Justice Act, I added two critically important provisions to the bill. These amendments strengthened the bill immensely, would have

greatly improved patient safety in long-term care facilities, and, in fact, would have saved lives.

Therefore, I am greatly disappointed that my patient safety provisions were the basis of an objection from Senator GREGG. That objection resulted in the provisions being stripped from the Elder Justice Act. The result? The legislation will do less on behalf of our elderly Americans than it could have done, and the elderly will continue to suffer from adverse events and death as a result of medication errors. This disappoints me deeply.

I would like to briefly describe the two amendments I had hoped would be part of the Elder Justice Act.

The first would have provided grants to long-term care facilities to improve quality and prevent neglect by improving patient safety and reducing health care complications and deaths resulting from medication errors in long-term care settings.

Section 108 of the Medicare Modernization Act gave authority to the Secretary to make such grants available to physicians in order to improve the quality of care and patient safety in physician offices. We should strive for no less for our patients in long-term care facilities.

According to the Institute of Medicine, medical errors cause up to 98,000 deaths in this country each year, in addition to otherwise avoidable injuries, hospitalizations, and expenses.

Although technologies are available to reduce errors and save lives, start-up costs and a lack of awareness have slowed the diffusion of these technologies, and prevented our long-term care facilities and elderly patients from reaping the benefits of these technologies.

The grant program would improve patient safety among the elderly by reducing medication errors in long-term care facilities. Grant money could be used by long-term care facilities to purchase proven technologies; the adoption of computer physician order entry systems, for example, is an essential component of any effective strategy to reduce medication errors.

Purchase and deployment of such systems is a substantial investment. Costs can delay the rapid introduction of new information technologies into long-term care facilities that already are grappling with other major financial challenges.

The grant program would have reduced this barrier by providing financial incentives for long term care facilities to adopt the resource intensive information technologies essential to system wide strategies for reducing and eventually ending most medication errors.

We know how to improve patient safety. We know how to save lives. My provision to create a grant program would have done just that, and I deeply regret having to strike the provision because of Senator GREGG's objection to it.

My second amendment would have required the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a plan for adopting open standards to enable improved electronic submission of clinical data by long term care facilities and allowing electronic transmission of data using such standards.

Although the Medicare Modernization Act requires the Secretary to develop uniform standards relating to requirements for electronic prescription drug programs, there is no provision for adopting uniform standards for data not related to prescription drug programs and no requirement that the Secretary allow long term care facilities to submit data electronically to HHS using uniform open standards.

The use of open standards is critical to ensuring that systems are able to communicate with each other and without human manipulation, thus allowing information to be processed automatically and quickly. Automatic, expedited processing of information will reduce neglect in the form of medical errors and save lives.

Currently, data may only be transmitted electronically using spreadsheets, PDFs, or SAS transport files. This form of submission does not allow systems to communicate with each other, and slows the processing of information.

I would like to explain the importance of this amendment to my constituents back in Florida and to people throughout our country.

Flu season is approaching. Without timely and accurate information to guide public health officials and physicians, seniors in my State and throughout the country are at risk. But, the public health system currently relies on a slow and unreliable methods of tracking outbreaks such as postcards and phonecalls from physicians and other medical professionals. If I want to get information on the health status of 290 million Americans, post cards and telephone calls simply aren't adequate. We need to use electronic reporting based on some common method of collecting that data to make public health safer.

Vioxx provides another example. Vioxx is a drug used for arthritis by seniors throughout the world; it was withdrawn by its manufacturer this fall. Vioxx was first sold in the United States 5 years ago and has been marketed in more than 80 countries. Worldwide sales of Vioxx in 2003 were \$2.5 billion. It is a major drug with broad use. But, the FDA relies on slow and unreliable methods of tracking problems associated with drugs that may only appear after they go into broad use. Although prescriptions are one of the most thoroughly computerized areas in medicine, the FDA relies on slow and unreliable methods to track medical problems resulting from drug use. We need to use electronic reporting based on common method of collecting that data to make drug use safer.

One last example: heart conditions are one of the leading diseases affecting Medicare patients and heart attacks can result in deaths and high costs. Many heart attack victims can be helped if they receive drugs to assist their damaged heart while it recovers. CMS studies indicate that many of the victims do not receive those medications. But, CMS collects that data with great effort—relying on many health professionals to extract data from clinical records and summarize the data for analysis. By the time the data is available, the patient has met their fate and the time for correcting a mistake, for getting them a lifesaving drug, has passed. We need to use electronic reporting based on a common method of collecting data to improve quality of care and patient safety for those in long-term care facilities, and for all Medicare patients.

I had hoped to see these measures pass in my final days in the Senate and thus leave patients with a safer medical system. I am deeply disappointed in the removal of the amendments from the Elder Justice Act.

However because of my great desire to see the Elder Justice Act go through, I removed my hold on the legislation on Wednesday, November 17. It is my understanding that the Elder Justice Act has not yet cleared the Senate because of Republican objections to the substance of the legislation.

I share Senator BREAUX's desire to see the legislation enacted this year, and fervently hope that may still be possible.

"HUGS, NOT BULLETS"

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues a campaign by the Neighborhood Service Organization's Youth Initiatives Project in Detroit, MI, called "Hugs, Not Bullets." This is an outstanding example of involvement by youth leaders who want to make a difference in their community by decreasing gun violence.

The Youth Initiatives Project was created in 1999 to address growing community issues including violence and substance abuse in Detroit. For five years, community organizations and students have been involved in a coordinated effort to accomplish the goals of the project. Previous Youth Initiatives Project campaigns have focused on after-school programs to reduce gun violence and increase the use of trigger locks in homes.

The current campaign, "Hugs, Not Bullets," is intended to reduce the use of firearms during the celebration of the New Year's holiday. Youth leaders have been organizing for months and plan to enlist over 200 students and numerous community groups in support of the campaign. Several rallies and a candlelight vigil are planned to draw attention to the campaign and the issue of gun safety. In addition, the

centerpiece of the campaign is a four-foot by eight-foot card which will make its way through schools and the community to be signed by those who pledge to help reduce gun violence over the New Year's holiday. The card will serve as a powerful symbol of the community's determination to fight violence, particularly involving firearms.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Youth Initiatives Project for their hard work to bring an end to the gun violence that continues to plague our society. I am hopeful that the 109th Congress will do more to support their efforts and pass sensible gun safety legislation. We owe it to them, to our police officers, and to our communities to do all we can to keep dangerous guns off of our streets.

EDUCATION

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I appreciate having this opportunity to express my congratulations and note for the RECORD the achievements of Dr. Steven F. Barrett who has just been named the Wyoming Professor of the Year. This prestigious honor is the only national award that recognizes the performance of college and university professors who have produced outstanding results as undergraduate teachers and mentors.

As an assistant professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Wyoming, Dr. Barrett has served as a role model for his colleagues on the school's academic staff, as well as the students he teaches in his classes. His unique teaching style gets students more involved in their classes and increases their commitment to the successful completion of their education.

Dr. Barrett played a key role in the effort to improve the electrical and computer engineering curriculum. He revived courses in biomedical engineering and image processing that had not been taught for years. He also served on a committee to establish a computer engineering degree at the university. Thanks in no small part to his efforts, the degree was approved by the university trustees in 2000, and the first students graduated from the program in 2001. Wyoming students now have the chance to obtain a degree in one of the fastest growing job industries. That will help to improve their future chances for success and the ability of our workforce to compete in an ever changing job market.

Dr. Barrett's dedication to his profession extends far beyond his efforts to establish the computer engineering degree. To ensure his students have the skills they will need to prepare them for post graduate life, he has upgraded the department's course work and laboratory activities involving microcontrollers, which are small self-contained computers. When he couldn't find a textbook he liked for the degree, he contacted a close friend and former

colleague to help him write a text that he could use in his classes. He has gone on to write another textbook and is in the process of completing a third. He truly does exemplify the characteristics needed to get students excited about education and what they need to do to reach their greatest potential.

Dr. Barrett's classes provide his students with a unique opportunity not only to learn, but to take a more active role in the process by helping to teach what they have learned. He applied for and was able to secure funding from the National Science Foundation for a program that improves the interaction between undergraduates and those with assistive technology needs. Through the program, students have had the support and encouragement they needed to develop a workshop to teach assistive technology professionals how to adapt off-the-shelf toys to assistive technology teaching aids. His students were also involved in the effort to create a 50-page workshop manual that they then used to help teach the workshop to assistive technology professionals across the state of Wyoming. By giving students these life experiences, they can more readily see the positive impact of the skills they have developed in the effort to improve the lives and education of others.

Wyoming can be very proud of professors such as Dr. Barrett who are such an integral part of our Wyoming school system. His dedication to the future of his students and his enthusiasm for teaching continues to improve the quality of the education Wyoming students receive in our schools, and better prepares them for the challenges they will face in their postgraduate years.

UNITED STATES CAPITOL HOLIDAY TREE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate Virginia's role as the 2004 provider of the annual U.S. Capitol Holiday Tree, selected each year from America's national forests.

In recent decades, the traditional Christmas tree has moved beyond its place as solely a religious symbol in the homes of hundreds of millions of Americans. Although the Christmas tree will always, and rightfully, have a special meaning in Christian homes, today all Americans await the annual tree-trimming to signal the beginning of the year-end religious and holiday season.

It is with great pleasure that I join my colleagues from the Virginia congressional delegation in recognizing the first-ever contribution from the Commonwealth of Virginia to this fine tradition. This year, our State, the home of the first English-speaking colony in the Americas, and home to our first President, George Washington, and eight of his successors, will make America proud as the home of the Nation's holiday tree for the first time since this tradition began 40 years ago.

The poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote of friendship as a "sheltering