

I join with all of the people from Delaware and all of the colleagues in the Senate in paying tribute to Bill Roth, saying goodbye to him for his service, and extending my warmest sympathy and condolences to Jane for the loss of her husband as well as recognition of her service to this country. What a remarkable couple. America, as well as the State of Delaware, has been very well served for their willingness to participate in the public arena.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to Senator Roth. I had the privilege of working with Bill Roth in the Senate for some 20 years.

On the route from Washington to Philadelphia I frequently road with Bill Roth as far as Wilmington. Frequently when I would catch the train in Philadelphia, I would see him board in Wilmington. During the course of 20 years, we had very many long and fascinating discussions.

Bill Roth was an outstanding Senator. He served in the House of Representatives in advance of coming to the Senate and was a native of the State of Montana. He was Harvard Law School educated. He was chairman of the Finance Committee. He had very deep insight into finances and taxes. He was a coauthor of the famous Roth-Kemp bill or Kemp-Roth bill—it depends on whether you accentuate the House or the Senate—with very substantial tax cuts in the early days of the Reagan administration. He later served as chairman of the Finance Committee, known for the Roth IRAs, so people could set aside funds and make a real contribution to the Nation.

My wife and I had the occasion to attend the memorial service for Senator Roth in Wilmington recently. As noted, his wife Jane is a very distinguished judge of the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, the circuit which covers Pennsylvania as well as Delaware and also New Jersey.

When Senator Roth finished his term at about his 80th birthday, it marked a very outstanding contribution to the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the pending resolution?

The resolution (S. Res. 284) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

Mr. SPECTER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. I ask unanimous consent the next remarks be in morning business under the introduction of legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. SPECTER pertaining to the introduction of S. 2008 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached statement from the Office of Compliance be printed in the RECORD today pursuant to section 4(c)(4) of the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 ("VEOA") (2 U.S.C. 1316a(4)), and section 304(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1384(b)).

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,
Washington, DC, December 8, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER:

WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICE OF PROPOSED SUBSTANTIVE RULE MAKING, AND ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

On November 13, 2001, the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance submitted proposed substantive rules for comment, pursuant to section 4(c)(4) of the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 ("VEOA") (2 U.S.C. 1316a(4)), and section 304(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1384(b)). The proposed substantive rules would implement section 4(c) of the VEOA, which affords to covered employees of the legislative branch the rights and protections of selected provisions of veterans' preference law. The Notice of Proposed Rule Making was printed in the Congressional Record on December 6, 2001 at H9065, et seq., and S12539 et seq.

In response to that Notice, the Board of Directors received comments which addressed the difficulty in promulgating regulations applying substantive veterans' preference rights in the absence of formal civil service merit personnel systems in the legislative branch. In view of the comments, and upon further consideration, the Board has decided to withdraw the notice of proposed rule making of November 13, 2001, printed in the Congressional Record of December 6, 2001.

The Board of Directors has initiated a new process of drafting proposed substantive regulations which would implement section 4(c) of the VEOA. The Board invites the informal input of interested parties in advance of the Board's completion of new draft regulations and publication of a new Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the future. Interested parties are invited to contact the Executive Director of the Office of Compliance, Room LA-200, 110 2nd Street, SE., Washington, DC 20540; 202-724-9250, TDD 202-426-1912.

We request that this notice be published in the Congressional Record. Any inquiries regarding this notice should be addressed to the Office of Compliance at our address above, or by telephone or TDD.

Sincerely,

SUSAN S. ROBFOGEL,
Chair.

TRIBUTE TO LEE LEIGHTON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a man who is a husband, a father, a grandfather, a friend, and a hero.

Chief Lee Leighton is retiring after a remarkable career of 34 years with the fire department of Sparks, NV.

From the time Lee was born in Lynn, MA, he can never remember a time when he did not want to follow in his father's footsteps as a public servant. After the family moved to Nevada, his father joined the Washoe County Sheriff's office, and he showed Lee through example how important a job and a life's work can be.

Lee looked up to his dad. And as he looked toward his own future, he hoped to become either a policeman or a firefighter. As fate would have it, the fire department called him first, so he became a fireman.

Being the oldest of four children, Lee has always been a leader. He began his career in the fire department in August of 1969, and a few years later became the pump operator driver. The department, recognizing his ambition, promoted him to Captain in 1977. Over the years, Lee's dedication to the fire department was acknowledged and he was appointed battalion chief and then department chief. For the past 3½ years he has been the fire chief of the Sparks Fire Department.

When Lee joined the department, it had about 30 people. Now there are almost 100. He is leaving the department in good shape, with response times that are as good as any in the Nation.

His commitment to Nevada is evident not only through the years he spent working for the Sparks Fire Department, but through his passion and love for his job and life. This passion has also inspired his four sons to become firemen. They are serving Nevada through the Reno Fire Department, Storey County Fire Department, and Nevada Division of Forestry.

Lee's life as a public servant went beyond the Fire Department. He served 6 years in the Marine Corps Reserve, and Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn appointed him as a member of the Board of Fire Services. In addition, Lee participated as a member of the Department's Honor Guard, former chairman of the Sparks Fire Department Commendation Review Committee, and chairman of the Sparks Fire Department History Book Committee.

Sixteen years ago he met his future wife, Roberta Leighton. Roberta, or "Bobbi," was working as a police and fire dispatcher. Lee with his four sons, and Bobbi with two daughters and one son, became good friends. Over 8 years,

that friendship evolved into love, and they married in March of 1996. This March they will celebrate their eighth anniversary.

Lee and Bobbi plan to spend a few well-deserved months in Mexico, relaxing and enjoying the life they have established together. Of course, they will spend a lot of time with their seven children and six grandchildren. And Lee will now have more time to ride his Harley, possibly in the upcoming Street Vibrations festival, an annual celebration for motorcycle enthusiasts in Sparks and nearby Reno.

As they look forward to retirement, Lee and Bobbi can also look back on a job well done, a life well lived, and the important role they played in Sparks, NV.

So today, on behalf of all Nevadans, I offer congratulations and gratitude to Lee and Bobbi Leighton.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to CPT Chris Soelzer, a resident of Sturgis, SD who died on December 24, 2003, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Captain Soelzer was a member of the Headquarters Company of the 5th Engineer Battalion, which was based out of Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He was among three soldiers killed when a roadside bomb hit a military convoy near Samarra.

Answering America's call to the military, Captain Soelzer wasn't sure he was going to make a career out of the Army. However, according to his brother, "he was a soldier, that is what he lived for." A born soldier, he had attended Kemper Military School and College after graduating from Sturgis High School. A member of the school band, chorus group, and the track team, friends remember him as a quiet and gentle person. Captain Soelzer's former principal recalls that "he was a real gentleman, a real nice kid who was involved in a lot of things." Dave Mueller, a friend from high school remembers Captain Soelzer as a bright individual and remarked that "Academics was his big thing. I think he was close to straight A's."

Captain Soelzer served our country and, as a hero, died fighting for it. He served as a model example of the loyalty and dedication in the preservation of freedom. The thoughts and prayers of my family as well as the rest of the country's are with his family during this time of mourning. Our thoughts continue to be with all those families with children, spouses, and loved ones serving overseas.

Captain Soelzer led a full life, committed to his family, his Nation, and his community. It was his incredible dedication to helping others that will serve as his greatest legacy. Our Nation is a far better place because of Captain Soelzer's contributions, and, while his family, friends, and Nation will miss him very much, the best way

to honor his life is to emulate his commitment to service and community. In the words of Dave Mueller, "He was also a person who you'd barely have to know him and he would do everything for you."

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of Captain Soelzer. I know that he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

SERGEANT DENNIS A. CORRAL

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Dennis A. Corral, a fellow Nebraskan and Sergeant in the U.S. Army. Sergeant Corral was killed on January 1 in Baghdad, Iraq. He was 33 years old.

Sergeant Corral served as a supply sergeant in Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, based in Fort Riley, KS.

A resident of Kearney, NE, Sergeant Corral was a dedicated soldier who was committed to his family and country. Sergeant Corral volunteered to deploy early so that another soldier with a wife and children could spend more time at home, his mother, Yolanda, said. She described her son as always willing to "step forward if they need help."

In addition to his mother, Sergeant Corral is survived by his father, Victor, and brothers, Peter, Christopher, and Rodney. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of them at this difficult time.

Sergeant Corral and thousands of brave American service men and women confront danger every day in Iraq and their tremendous sacrifices must never be taken for granted or forgotten. For his service, bravery, and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring Sergeant Dennis Corral.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY, 2004

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, throughout California and across America, millions of people gathered yesterday to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth. Each year, thanks to a 1983 Federal law that I was proud to vote for, we take the third Monday of January to commemorate Dr. King's birthday.

In his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. King shared his vision of a land where people of every religion, race, and creed could realize the American dream of freedom and opportunity. In the words of his wife, Coretta Scott King, we honor Dr. King's dream of "a vibrant, multiracial nation that has a place at the table for children of every race and room at the inn for every needy child." On Martin Luther King Day, we take this opportunity to reflect on the dream of an inclusive society in which all people are truly created equal.

On this day and all year long, Americans share in Dr. King's extraordinary commitment to improving the lives of

others. We remember his dream and take an active role in making it a reality. Throughout our Nation, people help those in need: they feed the hungry, house the poor, heal the sick, and offer a guiding hand to at-risk youth.

This week, as we mark the national celebration of Dr. King's birthday, let us not merely reflect on his work, let us live his legacy. On this Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, I ask you to join me in vowing to make Dr. King's dream a reality. Let us come together to take positive—yes, affirmative—action to give every American a real shot at the dream.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, yesterday, we celebrated Martin Luther King Day. For many of us, this day was a time to reflect on the progress we have made in protecting civil rights and the work that remains. Dr. King once said:

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

No matter how far our Nation has come, we must never rest contented with the mistaken notion that we have done enough to protect our fellow citizens.

In 1998, a young man named Matthew Shepard was brutally beaten and left for dead simply because he was gay. He lived for 6 days in the hospital, just long enough for his family to gather and say goodbye. Matthew's story, and the heinous dragging murder of James Byrd 6 months earlier, brought hate crimes to the forefront of the national discourse. It taught us a profound lesson about the hatred that still lives in some of our citizens.

Hate crimes are violent acts intended by their perpetrators to send a message of animus and intimidation towards those whose religion, race, or sexual orientation might differ from their own. They are a violation of everything our country stands for. As Attorney General Ashcroft has said:

Criminal acts of hate run counter to what is best in America—our belief in equality and freedom.

Sadly, the number of reported hate crimes continues to grow at an alarming rate. The FBI catalogued over 9,700 hate crimes in 2001. That is an average of 26 hate crimes a day. At that pace, in the last 5 years, more than 47,000 hate crimes have been committed.

The current hate crimes law was enacted after the assassination of Dr. King, and it is woefully outdated. It does not apply to hate crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability. Even in cases of crimes based on race, religion, or ethnic background, the law only protects victims who were attacked when engaged in "federally protected activities" such as jury service, interstate travel, or voting.

It is time to update this law, and I believe we have finally developed compromise legislation that can pass Congress. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, LLEEA, is a bipartisan bill that will provide support to local authorities investigating and prosecuting hate violence.