

The Tennessee General Assembly recently passed a resolution commemorating Jack Daniel's 1904 Gold Medal. Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER and I would like to share the resolution with our colleagues by including it in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

Whereas, it is fitting that the members of the General Assembly should honor those Tennessee companies bringing Tennessee's heritage to people around the world; and

Whereas, Jack Daniel's is one such Tennessee company which has proudly and responsibly brought Tennessee's heritage to millions of adult consumers; and

Whereas, since 1863, in the spirit of President George Washington, the father of the American Distilling Industry, the Jack Daniel Distillery has produced the world's most popular Tennessee Whiskey; and

Whereas, 2004 is the 100th Anniversary of Jack Daniel's Old Number 7 Brand Tennessee Whiskey's receipt of the Gold Medal at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair; and

Whereas, Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey is enjoyed by adult consumers in over 135 countries—more countries than any other Tennessee export; and

Whereas, Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey is the United States' number one exported distilled spirit; and

Whereas, to commemorate its popularity and its Tennessee heritage, Jack Daniel's will be honored in Washington, D.C. on April 1, 2004; and

Whereas, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the staff of the Jack Daniel Distillery upon their great success; Now, therefore, be it further

Resolved by House of Representatives of the 103rd General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, the Senate concurring, that we congratulate the staff of the Jack Daniel Distillery upon the celebration of its 100th Anniversary of winning the 1904 Saint Louis World's Fair Gold Medal, and saluting their excellent service to this great state, extend to them our wishes for every future success.

Mr. FRIST. Senator ALEXANDER and I join in congratulating the people of Jack Daniel Distillery on this 100th anniversary and look forward to their continued success at bringing a part of Tennessee's heritage to consumers around the world.

On April 1, 2004, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 1904 World's Fair Gold Medal, the Tennessee State Society and the Jack Daniel Distillery will hold a celebration of Jack Daniel's Tennessee heritage here in Washington. It will be a very special occasion, so we encourage our colleagues to join us at the celebration.

HAITI

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, the Haitian people find themselves embroiled in yet another political crisis. Following Jean Bertrand Aristide's departure on February 29, 2004, the Haitian people once again are forced to pick up the pieces of their broken political system. Again, they must renew

their search for democracy, a search that has lasted for two hundred years with little progress. Thirty coups after Haiti established its independence in 1804, Haitians continue to live in severe poverty, battling HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, poor sanitation, and a political culture of thuggery and violence.

The United States has played an important role in Haiti's history. From U.S. military intervention in 1915 and the 19-year occupation that followed to the restoration of President Aristide in 1994 by U.S. forces, politics in Haiti have been deeply influenced by its larger and more powerful neighbor. Now, the United States has an obligation to assist in rebuilding Haiti in collaboration with our international partners. However, our assistance must be shaped and implemented with an eye to our previous mistakes. For too long, our approach has been ad-hoc and short-term, and the Haitian people have suffered. It is no wonder that some are suspicious of democracy and the role of the United States today.

This is not to say that the United States must take most of the blame for the political turmoil in Haiti. Haiti's leaders, and especially President Aristide, must also acknowledge their responsibility in Haiti's current political crisis. However, our flawed nation-building attempt in the 1990s, allegations of international support for Haiti's rebels, and the departure of President Aristide suggest a need for introspection by U.S. policymakers, humanitarian and development organizations and others.

Policymakers knew that Haiti's democracy was in trouble for years. Why did the administration fail to take meaningful action until Haiti was on the verge of collapse? As the rebels gained control of Haitian territory from early to mid-February, the U.S. administration largely channeled its diplomatic efforts through the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community, CARICOM. On February 21st, the United States backed a CARICOM proposal, which called for a power-sharing compromise between Aristide and the opposition. However, as soon as Haiti's political opposition rejected the proposal, rather than defending Haiti's democratic process and institutions, the administration quickly backed down. With rebel forces moving toward the capital of Port-au-Prince on February 28, 2004, the administration increased pressure on Aristide to resign, stating that "His failure to adhere to democratic principles has contributed to the deep polarization and violent unrest that we are witnessing in Haiti today." Aristide resigned the next day and flew into exile on a U.S. aircraft.

President Aristide was no paragon of democratic virtue. He encouraged his supporters in their violent campaign against the opposition, and his regime was a corrupt one. But a world in which legitimately elected officials, found wanting, can be run out of office

by gangs of armed thugs is a world in which the thugs, in fact, are in charge. The people of Haiti, like people all over the world, deserve better. U.S. complicity in President Aristide's ouster sent the wrong message to violent rebel leaders, who have committed their own atrocities in Haiti's past. A transition guided by the rule of law, rather than the threat of violence, would surely have been preferable.

In the past weeks, a number of my constituents have raised important questions. What ties exist between rebel leaders and the government of the United States? Did the U.S. government impede efforts by the international community, particularly the Caribbean Community, CARICOM, to prevent President Aristide's resignation? I believe that the American and Haitian people deserve the answers, and a full accounting of the events surrounding Aristide's departure.

Equally important, we must help Haiti move forward and break out of this pattern of instability and underdevelopment. We should continue to assist in establishing security and disarming all parties to the conflict, and I commend the American troops who answered the call to service and are now on the ground in Haiti. However, I believe that the administration's decision to commit troops will require a full vetting by Congress. As long as American troops are in harm's way in Haiti, the Congress has a direct role and responsibility to either ratify or repudiate the use of U.S. military troops.

We must also ensure the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to communities in need. Haitian Supreme Court Chief Justice Boniface Alexandre should have the full support of the United States in working to make Haiti's constitution the guide for the transition and succession process from this point on. And in the longer term, the United States should work with the rest of the international community to help bolster the institutions that are essential to consolidating Haiti's democracy and stability, and assist the Haitian people in holding people accountable for their flagrant violations of human rights.

The United States cannot ignore Haiti. Not only do we have a moral obligation to help the Haitian people, who are starving in our own backyard, but there are other national security interests at stake for the United States. A country in crisis so close to our borders creates a political vacuum in the region, where international crime and terrorism can flourish. As we saw in Afghanistan, a country in chaos allows for the emergence of dangerous forces, that directly threaten our security. In addition, the refugee flow created by instability and oppression will wash up on our shores, causing hardship for the Haitian people and overwhelming U.S. communities.

I urge Congress to look closely at recent events in Haiti, to ensure that lingering questions are answered forthrightly, and to lend the support that Haiti desperately needs as it moves forward in establishing peace and security.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

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 March 1, 2004 Christopher James Barnhart and John Matthew Aravanis left a Morgantown, WV, bar around 3:30 a.m. when they heard, "Get out of the way, faggots." A fist subsequently landed on Barnhart's head and he was knocked to the ground. Barnhart, who sustained two facial fractures in the scuffle, said the men also struck Aravanis in the head as he came to Barnhart's aid. The men left the scene, but returned and kicked and punched them and continued to call them "faggots." City police have obtained arrest warrants for the three men charged with beating Barnhart, Aravanis, and their friend who was with them during the incident.

I believe that 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.

HONORING THE ARMY FISHER HOUSES

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher established the Fisher House Foundation, Inc., a unique public-private partnership that supports America's military in their time of need. The program recognizes the special sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and the hardships of military service by meeting a humanitarian need beyond that provided by the Department of Defense. The Fisher Houses enable family members to be close to loved ones at the most stressful time—during hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury.

The homes are built by the Fisher House Foundation, Inc., and given to the military services and the Veterans Administration. The Army is the recipient of 14 of the 32 Fisher Houses located at every major military medical center and at several VA medical centers. The homes are located within walking distance of the medical facility.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting with Fisher family members, friends,

and staff of the Fisher House on board the USS *Missouri* to celebrate the opening of the second Fisher House at Tripler Army Medical Center, the largest military medical treatment facility in the Pacific located in Honolulu, HI. The first Tripler Fisher House opened in June 1994. Due to its location, families stay an average of 55 days, compared to an average of 15 days in other locations. Tripler Fisher Houses service families and patients not only from Hawaii but also the Pacific area of Korea, Guam, Japan, and Okinawa.

The Fisher Houses provide temporary lodging in a warm, compassionate, and caring home away from home environment to members of our armed services, veterans, and their families during a medical crisis. They enable families to stay together, cook meals, do laundry, relax, unwind, and provide emotional support to each other during a time of need, and to escape from the tensions of the hospital environment.

Today, when we ask so much of our military in support of freedom, it is important to recognize the generosity of foundations such as The Fisher House, that give back to those who have given so much in defending this great Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DANIELLE MILLER

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Danielle Miller, of Louisville, KY. Recently, Ms. Miller has been named a State honoree for Prudential Spirit of Community Award program for Kentucky based on her outstanding volunteer services.

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program names only one high school student and one middle-level student in each State and the District of Columbia. As a junior at Louisville's Sacred Heart Academy, Ms. Miller was selected from more than 20,000 students for this honor. Ms. Miller received this honor because she founded a service organization called the "National Awareness Committee" to provide clothing, books, and other needed items to members of the Lakota Sioux Nation living on reservations in South Dakota.

The citizens of Louisville, KY are fortunate to have Ms. Miller living and learning in their community. Her example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

I congratulate Ms. Miller for her success. But also, I congratulate all her peers, coaches, teachers, administrators, and her parents for their support and sacrifices they've made to help Ms. Miller reach this goal and fulfill her dreams.●

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR CHARLES MEEKS

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of my fellow

Hoosier, State Senator Charles "Bud" Meeks, who passed away on March 22. Senator Meeks dedicated his life to serving his country and our home State of Indiana, setting an example of personal conviction and political vigor throughout his 6 years as State senator.

Bud Meeks grew up in Fort Wayne, IN. He graduated from Central High School in 1954 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After serving 4 years in the Navy, Senator Meeks returned home to Fort Wayne where he began his career in public service as a deputy at the Allen County jail. Meeks retired from the Sheriff's Department after 28 years of dedicated service, including two terms as Allen County Sheriff. He then moved to Washington, DC, where he was the executive director of the National Sheriff's Association for 8 years. Upon his final return to Indiana, Meeks ran a successful campaign, demonstrating a work ethic on the campaign trail that is remembered by Hoosiers still today. In 1998, Senator Meeks was elected to the Indiana State Senate to represent Indiana's 14th Senate District.

While serving as Senator, Meeks most recently played a crucial role in championing the current proposal to consolidate Allen County government. But among his colleagues, Meeks was known above all else for his love of children. While in the Senate, Meeks would frequently devote a significant amount of time to young students, answering questions and discussing government. His focus on Indiana's youth is a testament to Meeks' kindness of heart and clear understanding of the importance of prioritizing the children who will one day be running our great Nation.

In everything he did, Senator Meeks brought with him an inspiring energy and passion, setting a positive example for his friends, colleagues, and constituents to follow. He was always ready to work diligently for the causes he cared for so deeply, and it was his steadfast belief in community involvement that earned him the unwavering admiration of Hoosiers across Indiana.

Meeks was a committed father and public servant. The sense of loss to all those who knew Senator Meeks is tremendous. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie; son, Brian, brothers Bob and Fred; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Brenda Sue and another son, David.

It is my honor to enter the name of Senator Charles "Bud" Meeks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.●

TRIBUTE TO WHITTON MONTGOMERY

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Whitton Montgomery, of Louisville, KY. Recently, Ms. Montgomery has been named a State honoree for Prudential Spirit of Community Award program for Kentucky based on her outstanding volunteer services.