

2004 NATIVE FAMILY WELLNESS CONFERENCE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to honor an outstanding collaboration taking place between organizations of the Yankton Sioux Tribe and the neighboring town of Wagner—the Native Family Wellness Conference. This 3-day initiative is the result of the tireless work and cooperation among the Boys and Girls Club of the Yankton Sioux, Brave Heart Society, Canku Teca Treatment Center, and the Indian Health Service's Wagner Service Unit. In particular, I want to commend Faith Spotted Eagle, Jenny Noteboom, and Amy Schwenk-Doom for their leadership in this effort.

As we know all too well, the lack of quality health care in Indian Country is having a devastating impact on the health of far too many Native Americans. The availability of only "life or limb" treatment in our IHS hospitals has heightened the importance of health and wellness education in Native American communities, and I applaud the initiative demonstrated by this collaborative in developing the Native Family Wellness Conference.

The great leader Sitting Bull once said: "Come, let us put our minds together and see what kind of life we can make for our children." The Native Family Wellness Conference embodies Sitting Bull's hope for the future by teaching children, both Native and non-Native, about the importance of health and wellness in both their cultural heritage and personal future.

Children and families will have the opportunity to learn about the effects of diet, drug abuse, and exercise on personal and family wellness during a series of breakout sessions on April 29 and 30. Those who participate in the sessions will be invited to join a fun run/walk with the Lakota Olympian Billy Mills and a concert by the band Brule of Lower Brule.

Billy Mills and his organization, Running Strong for American Indian Youth, have dedicated almost 20 years to providing Native Americans with the tools needed for survival and to build self-esteem and self-sufficiency. Billy Mills' participation in this conference demonstrates the importance of this collaboration, and I also want to thank him for his dedication and commitment to the health and well-being of Native Americans.

In recent months, countless organizations from the Yankton Sioux Tribe and Wagner have joined in support of the Native Family Wellness Conference. The Bureau of Indian Affairs police department, Fort Randall Casino and Hotel, Indian Health Services Diabetes Project, Native American Community Board, Lewis and Clark Mental Health Services, Marty Indian School, Wagner School District, Wellmark Foundation, the Yankton Sioux Tribe's Business and Claims Committee, Tribal Health Program, Healthy Start Program, Housing Authority, Tribal

Courts, and Tribal Youth Program have also contributed their time and talents to the conference. These organizations and their members are to be commended for their involvement in this important event.

Our children are our greatest resource, and the Native Family Wellness Conference is a great investment in the health of our future generations. That is why I am proud to honor this outstanding effort.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL BENJAMIN CARMAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to LCpl Benjamin Robert Carman who bravely gave his life for our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I offer my deepest sympathy to his parents, Marie and Nelson, as well as his siblings; James, Catherine, and Amelia. LCpl Carman was killed in action by small arms fire during combat operations in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Tuesday, April 6, 2004.

LCpl Carman is the eleventh Iowan to be killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I appreciate his faithful service to our country and the patriotic mission that he died supporting. The attitude that Ben had toward his military service was summarized by his pastor at his funeral: "Ben died because he loved freedom. He died because he loved justice." LCpl Carman was not afraid to courageously serve his country and accomplish his duty. As an Iowan, I am proud of this exemplary young man who will be missed by many.

Ben Carman graduated from Jefferson-Scranton High School in 2002 where he excelled in the industrial arts, winning first in the State on several occasions in the sheet metal category of an industrial skills contest. He also participated in football and golf and was well loved by his classmates. Ben also loved the outdoors and his hobbies included fishing, hunting and camping. He was a proud Marine who proved himself to be a true hero and patriot. LCpl Ben Carman lived out the Marine motto, *Semper Fidelis*, always faithful, and is a credit to his State and to his country. I again express my sympathy for Ben's family and my gratitude for his courageous service.

VETERANS SHOULD RECEIVE TIMELY ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I recognize the dedication of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, PVA, and their support of spinal cord injury research. Through their Spinal Cord Research Foundation, PVA support has aided researchers in making huge advances in this crucial field.

Last Friday, in conjunction with PVA Awareness Week 2004, three spinal cord injury researchers detailed the contributions PVA has made toward improving treatment for and, hopefully, eventually ending paralysis. Ste-

phen G. Waxman, M.D., Ph.D., professor and chairman of neurology at Yale University, discussed "Protecting and Repairing the Spinal Cord: Gifts from the Molecular Revolution." Among other topics, Dr. Waxman discussed how his lab had created chronic neuropathic pain in a rat, which the lab was then able to successfully "turn off" and "turn on" through chemical manipulations.

Mindy L. Aisen, M.D., the deputy chief research and development officer and rehabilitation research and development service director for the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, addressed "Spinal Cord Injury Research: The VA Perspective." She spoke about the large scope of VA research, which extends well beyond spinal cord dysfunction. She specifically discussed the diaphragmatic pacer used by Christopher Reeve, which was invented at the Cleveland VA Medical Center, and she noted the wound healing studies conducted by VA.

Alessandro Ghidini, M.D., a specialist in high-risk pregnancies and director of perinatal research for the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Georgetown University Medical Center, spoke about "Obstetrical Outcomes of Women with Spinal Cord Injury." Dr. Ghidini is just beginning a PVA research foundation grant to document the obstetrical experiences of 60 women with spinal cord injuries, and she talked about the main concerns that arise when these two major conditions interact; complications from both can create a number of medical emergencies that healthcare professionals and women with spinal cord injuries must know about in order to carefully and successfully manage them.

These medical professionals demonstrated the great strides the PVA Spinal Cord Research Foundation has helped to make in alleviating the hardships of paralysis, and they provided a glimpse into the promising future of spinal cord injury research.

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.

Chicago police issued a community warning the week of April 5, 2004, alerting North Side residents of slayings of two gay men under similar circumstances. The bodies of Kevin Clewer and Brad Nelson were found in their apartments in March and August, respectively, with multiple stab wounds, police said.

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.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this week, from April 18th to 24th, we are celebrating the 46th anniversary of National Library Week. As a strong and vigorous supporter of Federal initiatives to strengthen and protect libraries, I am pleased to have this opportunity to take a few moments to reflect on the significance of libraries to our nation.

When the free public library came into its own in this country in the 19th century, it was, from the beginning, a unique institution because of its commitment to the free and open exchange of ideas embodied in the Constitution itself. Libraries have always been an integral part of all that our country stands for: freedom of information, an educated citizenry, and an open and enlightened society. They are the only public agencies in which the services rendered are intended for, and available to, every segment of our society.

It has been my longstanding view that libraries play an indispensable role in our communities. From modest beginnings in the mid-19th century, today's libraries provide well-stocked reference centers and wide-ranging loan services based on a system of branches, often further supplemented by traveling libraries or on-line libraries serving outlying districts. Libraries promote the reading of books among adults, adolescents, and children and provide the access and resources to allow citizens to obtain reliable information on a vast array of topics.

Libraries have gained even further significance in this age of rapid technological advancement because they are called upon to provide not only books and periodicals, but many other valuable resources as well. In today's society, libraries provide computer services, Internet access, audio-visual materials, facilities for community lectures and performances, DVDs, CD-Roms, tapes, and works of art for exhibit and loan to the public. In addition, special facilities libraries provide services for older Americans, people with disabilities, and hospitalized citizens.

Of course, libraries are not merely passive repositories of materials. They are engines of learning—the place where a spark is often struck for disadvantaged citizens who for whatever reason have not had exposure to the vast stores of knowledge available. I have the greatest respect for those individuals who are members of the library community and work so hard to ensure that our citizens and communities continue to enjoy the tremendous rewards available through our library system.

My own State of Maryland has 24 public library systems providing a full

range of library services to all Maryland citizens and a long tradition of open and unrestricted sharing of resources. This policy has been enhanced by the State Library Network, which provides interlibrary loans to the State public, academic, special libraries, and school library media centers. The Network receives strong support from the State Library Resource Center at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Regional Library Resource Centers in our Western, Southern, and Eastern Shore counties, and a Statewide database of periodicals from over 100 libraries.

The State Library Resource Center alone gives Marylanders free access to approximately 2 million books, over 1 million U.S. Government documents, 600,000 magazines, newspapers and books in microform, 11,000 periodicals, 90,000 maps, 20,000 Maryland State documents, and 19,000 videos and films.

The result of this unique joint State-County resource sharing is an extraordinary level of library services available to the citizens of Maryland. Marylanders have responded to this outstanding service with almost 58 percent of the State's population registered as library patrons. Additionally, the total holdings of catalogued and uncatalogued book volumes, video and audio recordings, periodicals, electronic formats, and serial volumes have increased by 1.2 million from 1998 to 2002 to total almost 16.8 million library holdings.

I have had a close working relationship with members of the Maryland Library Association and others involved in the library community throughout the State, and I am very pleased to join with them and citizens throughout the Nation in this week's celebration of "National Library Week." I look forward to a continued close association with those who enable libraries to make their unique and vital services available to all Americans.

CHINESE COMPETITION

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, one thing I have learned in the last couple of years is that everywhere I go the manufacturing community at home keeps bringing up on topic, Chinese competition. Due in large part to China's unfair trade practices; South Carolina alone lost 41,000 jobs in 2003. Most of these jobs were textile and related industries. In the last five and a half years, three million American manufacturing jobs have been lost. Since 1997, the U.S. textile industry has closed more than 250 textile plants in the country and more than 200,000 U.S. textile workers have lost their jobs.

Why is this happening? Why are American manufacturers not able to keep up with the Chinese? It is not because our workforce is intellectually inferior, and I don't believe our workforce is lazy. And it certainly isn't because we haven't invested in the most modern equipment.

It is because China cheats. China's accession agreement to enter the WTO consisted of numerous commitments by China to transition to a market and rules based economy. China has yet to live up to their commitments. The theory of free trade is a great theory, but it only works if other people buy into that theory. It is hard to have free trade if you do not even believe in free speech. Through its unfair trade practices, China continues to steal market share, and the U.S. manufacturing industry is at serious disadvantage.

China's currency, the yuan or renminbi, has been tightly pegged at 8.28 yuan to the U.S. dollar since 1994, which most economists believe to be a severe undervaluation of their currency. Most economists estimate China's currency to be undervalued by as much as 15 to 40 percent. This undervaluation makes China's exports less expensive for foreigners, while making foreign products more expensive for Chinese consumers, resulting in an effective subsidization of Chinese exports and poses a virtual tariff on Chinese imports.

Consequently, since 1994, China's economy has grown dramatically, averaging over 8 percent per year. The U.S. trade deficit with China in 2003 reached a record \$125 billion. In 1994, when China first began to peg its currency to the dollar, the United States trade deficit with China was \$29.4 billion.

China has been in clear violation of International Monetary Fund, IMF, and world Trade Organization, WTO, commitments by maintaining an unfairly low exchange rate to gain a competitive advantage. IMF Article IV states that members should "avoid manipulating exchange rates . . . in order . . . to gain an unfair competitive advantage over other members." The U.S. China Economic and Security Review Commission, a bipartisan commission created by Congress, found in its September 25, 2003 hearing, that: "China, in violation of both its IMF and WTO obligations, is in fact manipulating its currency for trade advantage" and recommends that the Treasury Department "immediately enter into formal negotiations with the Chinese government" over its undervalued currency. The Commission further "urges the Congressional leadership to use its legislative powers to force action by the U.S. and Chinese Governments to address this unfair and mercantilist trade practice."

At this hearing, Fred Bergsten, Ph.D., Director of International Institute of Economics, testified that a revaluation of 20 to 25 percent of the yuan should permit other Asian currencies, including Japan, Taiwan, North Korea, to go up at least partway, maybe 10 percent or so, because with the yuan appreciating, they would be willing to appreciate against the dollar since it would actually create a depreciation of their own currencies against the Chinese currency, their main competitor. If you put all those currency