

With a strong belief in public power, Mr. Crawford worked tirelessly to re-establish critical relationships and re-open communication doors. Under his leadership, TVPPA embarked on aggressive programs in governmental relations, communication, and education and training. In addition, he has spearheaded efforts to secure additional power supply options for distributors. Working with his board of directors, he successfully revamped TVPPA's dues structure and established additional levels of membership that expand the reach of public power.

Throughout his career, he has received the support of his family, including wife, Lane, daughter, Angela, and grandson, Blake.

Honoring Dick Crawford in this way serves as a lasting tribute, just as his engineering and technical skills are a lasting gift to power consumers in the Tennessee Valley. I thank him for his service, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USS "YF-415" TRAGEDY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as the official dedication of the world War II Memorial approaches, I welcome this opportunity to honor the sacrifice of the courageous men who lost their lives close to home in a tragic accident in 1944, fourteen miles off the coast of Massachusetts during the war.

Sixty years ago today, the 9-member crew of the Navy ship USS *YF-415* and 21 men from the Hingham Ammunition Depot were disposing of condemned ammunition and explosives off the coast. Tragically, while performing their mission, the ordnance on the ship caught fire, setting off the ammunition for nearly 40 minutes. The ship and 17 lives were lost.

The vessel lay on the ocean floor until the summer of 2003, when amateur divers discovered its remnants. They informed the Navy of the location, but too many years has passed, and the Navy salvage team was unable to find any trace of the missing men.

Now as the Nation prepares to honor all who served our country so bravely during World War II, it is fitting on this day to remember the men who lost their lives in that tragedy 60 years ago. I express my deepest condolences to the family members who have suffered so long because of that tragedy so close to home and to all of us in Massachusetts.

I would like to add the names of these men to the RECORD so that all may recognize their sacrifice: William J. Bradley, Adell Braxton, Joseph F. Burke, Raymond N. Carr, Truman S. Chittick, George M. Cook, James Cox, Jr., Freddie Edwards, Jr., F. E. Federle, James S. Griffin, Charles R. Harris, Raymond L. Henry, Julian Jackson, Yee M. Jin, Mike Peschunka, Vernon Smith, and James B. Turner.

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.

In Montgomery County, MD, in 2001, Robert Lucas alleged that he killed Monsignor Thomas Wells, a local priest, after the victim was sexually aggressive toward him. Lucas contends that his "killing rage" resulted from feelings of "anger, shame and humiliation." The victim bled to death as a result of stab wounds.

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.

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I was not present for the rollcall vote No. 87 on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 1637 today because of my participation in the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the mistreatment of Iraqi detainees. However, I wish to state for the record that I would have voted in favor of the motion to invoke cloture had I been present.

DEDICATION OF THE PYRAMID OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, this morning, at Arlington National Cemetery, I was honored to join Congressman STEVE LATOURETTE, LTG Richard A. Cody, Superintendent of Arlington Cemetery John Metzler and students and faculty from Painesville High School for the dedication of the Pyramid of Remembrance, a living memorial paying tribute to American soldiers who have lost their lives during peacekeeping operations, humanitarian efforts, training, terrorist attacks, or covert operations.

The unveiling of this historic memorial today came as a result of the dedication and hard work of motivated young people at Riverside High School in Painesville, OH and their teacher, Dr. Mary Porter. More than one decade ago, in October 1993, these high school students watched in horror as a U.S. soldier in Somalia was dragged through the streets of Mogadishu. The students—concerned that there was not a memorial in our Nation's Capital to honor members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives during peacekeeping missions such as the one in Somalia—felt compelled to take action.

These students spearheaded a campaign to establish a Pyramid of Remembrance in Washington, DC. The students not only proposed the memorial, they also created a private non-profit foundation to raise the money to construct the memorial. The community in Painesville pulled together,

providing legal counsel for the students and private donations to help fund the project. Due in part to the strong support of this Ohio community, the proposed national Pyramid of Remembrance has been erected at no cost to U.S. taxpayers.

There has been considerable discussion regarding the Pyramid of Remembrance since it was first proposed by the students of Riverside High School and introduced in the House of Representatives in 1996.

On October 17, 2002, Senator MIKE DEWINE joined me in introducing legislation in the Senate for the first time to authorize the creation of the Pyramid of Remembrance. We re-introduced this legislation on January 30, 2003, taking into account recommendations made by the National Park Service, and the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks conducted a hearing to examine the legislation on June 3, 2003.

In addition to consideration in the United States Congress, the National Capital Memorial Commission which is charged with overseeing monument construction in Washington, DC, conducted hearings about the proposed Pyramid of Remembrance in April 2001. The Commission recommended that the memorial be constructed on Defense Department land, possibly at Fort McNair. The commissioners also noted that such a memorial would indeed fill a void in our Nation's military monuments.

I agree with the commissioners' findings. I, too, believe that this memorial is a fitting addition to our Nation's Capital to honor those who have lost their lives while serving in the United States military, and I am proud that it has now come to fruition.

On May 6, 1999, I spoke on the Senate floor in honor of two brave American soldiers—CWO Kevin L. Reichert and CWO David A. Gibbs—who lost their lives when their Apache helicopter crashed into the Albanian mountains during a training exercise on May 5, 1999, as U.S. troops joined with our NATO allies in a military campaign against Slobodan Milosevic. As I remarked at the time, the United States owes Kevin, David and so many other service members a debt of gratitude that we will never be able to repay, for they have paid the ultimate sacrifice. As the Bible says in John, chapter 15:13:

Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his own life for his friends.

The Pyramid of Remembrance honors individuals such as David Gibbs and Kevin Reichert. It also honors the memory of the 17 service members who lost their lives when the USS *Cole* was attacked on October 12, 2000, and the American soldiers who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks against the Pentagon and the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

This memorial is dedicated to the brave men and women who have given their lives so that we may know freedom. I was deeply moved by words spoken this morning by Dr. Mary Porter, the teacher at Painesville High School who inspired these students to take action. She said:

And so this memorial is for you, SSG William Cleveland. They dragged your body through the streets of Mogadishu, but they could not destroy your spirit . . . for you and for all those who have lost their lives in places like Somalia, Bosnia and Iraq and in training accidents and acts of terrorism: we celebrate your spirit. We recognize your sacrifice. We honor your effort to establish peace. This monument represents our eternal gratitude for your sacrifice, but it also represents hope for a future where human beings on this planet can live in peace and without fear.

The patriotism, dedication, and vision of the students at Riverside High School are commendable. Their action shows maturity, leadership and passion for their country that Americans of all ages should emulate. I support and applaud the work these students have done to establish the Pyramid of Remembrance, as well as the efforts of community members who have provided ongoing guidance and support to help the students turn their vision into reality.

I believe it is our duty to honor American men and women in uniform who have lost their lives while serving their country, whether in peacetime or during war, and this memorial, which will remain and grow at Arlington National Cemetery, will ensure that the sacrifice made by so many is always remembered by our grateful Nation.

THREATS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND THE SECTION 8 VOUCHER PROGRAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I express my extreme disappointment with the administration's recent announcement on Fiscal Year 2004 Section 8 voucher renewals that threatens to end a long standing commitment to fully fund all Section 8 vouchers in use. Coupled with its budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2005 that would slash funding for Section 8, the Bush administration has given the Nation's communities ample reason to be concerned about the future of the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

The Section 8 voucher program has been the cornerstone of Federal housing policy for nearly 30 years. The program provides the Nation's most vulnerable families with vouchers to help them cover the cost of modest apartments and homes in the private market. It serves more than 2 million families nationwide who are trying to make ends meet. In my home State of Vermont it helps nearly 6,000 households—more than 60 percent of them are elderly or disabled members and 24 percent of them are working families.

Unfortunately the administration has chosen to shortchange the program

in a way that will almost guarantee that the poorest of families lose their support. They recently announced the intention to move from a funding formula based on the actual cost of vouchers to a model that calculates voucher costs based on last year's costs, pegged to a regional rent inflation index—which may or may not reflect local market conditions—and despite the fact that they may have access to more recent and accurate data on voucher costs.

The new formula does not take into consideration potential changes in personal incomes, and it does not provide definitive safeguards for public housing authorities—PHAs—that have seen rising voucher costs over the last year or that will be unable to meet their obligations to voucher holders once this policy is enacted. What I find even more troubling is that HUD will apply this formula retroactively, leaving many public housing authorities short-changed by millions of anticipated dollars.

Without the necessary funds to support all vouchers they have issued, many PHAs are either going to have to scale back subsidies or revoke vouchers completely. Already we are seeing the effects. PHAs are starting to realize massive gaps in their budgets. They are considering course corrections to plug these holes and in some cases have stopped accepting additional applicants for the Section 8 waiting list. If the administration's policy is carried out, it will be the first time since 1974 that the Federal Government walks away from our commitment to honor all authorized voucher contracts.

This new policy goes against the intent and will of Congress. We made it clear in the Fiscal Year 2004 Omnibus Appropriations Bill that the Department of Housing and Urban Development—HUD—should do everything in their power to ensure that all vouchers were fully funded, and we gave HUD the resources and tools they needed to do so. The Appropriations Committee added more than \$1 billion dollars to the administration's request for Section 8 vouchers, we gave HUD access to a central reserve fund to supplement voucher payments in the event that costs exceeded expectations, and the Senate passed sense of the Senate language reaffirming our commitment to the voucher program and to those that it serves. The intention of Congress could not have been clearer.

As a member of the VA-HUD appropriations subcommittee, I am not without concern for the rising cost of the Section 8 program, and I understand the need to look for creative solutions to contain those costs. But this new funding formula is irresponsible and shortsighted. Simply serving fewer people, or people with higher incomes—the almost certain outcome of this approach—is the wrong response to the rising cost of Section 8. Instead, we should be looking at measures to reduce the cost of housing and to raise

the average wage. We should look at policies which will enable families to afford a place to live without Federal assistance.

This new ruling is contrary to the administration's own goal to eliminate chronic homelessness in 10 years and will put a strain on other support services such as homeless care providers who are already stretched beyond their means. If it is not reevaluated, it will leave thousands of families nationwide at risk of losing their housing. It lacks specificity needed for PHAs to accurately predict how they are going to be affected and leaves considerable discretion to the department of how to interpret renewals.

This announcement fell on a housing community already reeling from the news that the administration wants to cut \$1.6 billion dollars from the program in the next Fiscal Year and convert Section 8 into a block grant program. If this proposal goes through, an additional 250,000 people could be faced with the loss of their housing assistance. My home State of Vermont would lose more than \$4 million in anticipated funds and could be forced to cut nearly 740 low-income, elderly and disabled families out of the program.

This is the wrong time to walk away from some of our Nation's most vulnerable populations. I find it outrageous that the President can stand behind policies that threaten the safety and wellbeing of thousands of American families while continuing to advocate for corporate tax cuts and tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. There is a fiscal crisis in this country, of that I am sure. Our Federal debt continues to rise and the Federal treasury continues to shrink, but it is not caused by the modest assistance we give families on Section 8.

This program has proven itself to be one of the most cost-effective housing programs. This was confirmed by two separate reports in 2002—one by the General Accounting Office, and reinforced by the Millennial Housing Commission. It has been shown to have positive effects on families and children, many of whom are able to move out of high poverty areas to areas of lower poverty and lower crime rates and better schools. Studies have shown that it helps promote success in the workplace performance—by providing reliable housing while families are trying to get established, many of whom have moved off welfare.

We cannot expect low-income families to improve their situations, hold steady jobs and move out of poverty if they do not have access to reliable, safe and affordable housing. We cannot expect the elderly and the disabled who are on meager fixed incomes to fend for themselves in rental markets that have spiraled out of the reach of even moderate-income families. Section 8 provides temporary assistance to those who need it. It helps families avoid the choice between a roof over their heads or food on the table.