

idealist determined to save the world, and every beleaguered citizen convinced that the government is after them. When they called or visited my office seeking help—an answer or action or reassurance—Hope was the first person they encountered in their quest. In the space between saying, “Good morning, Senator CHAFEE’s office,” and hitting the “transfer” button, Hope put people at ease, instilled calm, became a friend.

People were not numbers to Hope; they were souls in search of a connection, one that maybe Hope could help them find. One of her greatest gifts was her ability to see the humanity of all people, regardless of social station, political power, religion, or race. In that, she remains an example for us all. Thanks to Hope’s extraordinary ability to convey that human connection, Rhode Islanders knew that our office was a welcoming and responsive place.

Hope remained optimistic and of good cheer regardless of what was going on in her personal life. In 2001, she lost her husband. And she has faced, and lost, a daunting battle with cancer. Through it all, Hope demonstrated the highest level of dedication to her job, never betraying to any individual constituent that they were anything but the center of her universe.

Hope was involved in many volunteer organizations throughout the course of her career. She was most recently active with the AIDS Project of Rhode Island and she cherished her involvement with the First Pentecostal Church and the Congdon Street Baptist Church.

In 2003, Hope celebrated her 25th year as a Senate employee. And just recently, on May 3, 2004, Hope was the proud recipient of the Federal Employee of the Year Award by the Rhode Island Association of Federal Employees. This honor was richly deserved. All of the Chafee family and the myriad of people who have been touched by the life of Hope Harris will miss her joy for living. She was the heart and soul of our Providence office.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of an article that appeared in the Providence Journal on March 11, 2004, that speaks to the true essence of Hope Harris.

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

[From the Providence Journal, Mar. 11, 2004]

ON THE JOB: HOPE HARRIS, CHAFEE AIDE

(By M. Charles Bakst)

Hope Harris, 72, the receptionist in Sen. Lincoln Chafee’s Providence office, likes looking out from her desk at 170 Westminster St. The view from this 11th floor aerie is striking and she says, “It gives you a sense of being close to the Lord.”

Harris’s is the voice you are likeliest to have heard if you’ve phoned the Chafee shop during the last quarter century. For most of that span, of course, the senator was John Chafee, Lincoln’s late father.

Harris is enthusiastic, pleasant, and at peace. She has an advanced case of cancer that has spread from her liver to her breast

area. She comes in now only four days a week; if she tires, she goes home. I find it remarkable that she works at all, but Harris says, “I love what I’m doing.”

Barbara Berke, a Harris pal and former colleague says, “She’s happy and she wants to make the world happy.”

Chafee marvels at Harris’s patience in fielding constituent calls. “People like to tee off, they like to vent, and sometimes they go over the top,” he says.

How ironic that some people don’t realize Harris is black.

A man phoned to grouse about Jesse Jackson. Harris, no Jackson fan, said she wouldn’t argue. But the man said, “I wish they’d put him on a boat and send him back to Africa—and all the rest of them, too.” Harris said, “Well, I didn’t do anything. I don’t want to go to Africa. I don’t know anybody there.” The man laughed and said he didn’t mean her. By the end of the conversation, Harris says, they were friends.

Once a man who’d called for years came in to meet her. “He looked at me. He said, ‘Are you Hope?’ I said, ‘Yeah.’ He said, ‘You’re black!’ I said, ‘I know. What should I do?’ He said, ‘Oh, nothing, it’s all right.’”

Harris hears from people with immigration problems, or folks looking for a job reference, or who think Republican Chafee should bolt parties, or who are lonely, or who have strong views on abortion—including backers of legislation outlawing a form of late-term abortion and who talk about fetuses having their brains sucked out. “They want me to get the willies,” she says. (Like Chafee, she opposes such bans.)

Harris adds, “Everybody that calls here is somebody important to me because they’re a voter. . . . When they are abusive, when I’m through with them, they’re nice. They calm down. John Chafee said, ‘Hope can tame the wildest beast.’”

State Rep. Maxine Bradford Shavers, D-Newport, Harris’s sister-in-law says the key to understanding her is that “she’s a Christian.”

While Chafee press aide Debbie Rich, who is Jewish, sits by and listens, Harris defines “Christian” this way: “It means that Debbie and I have the same blood running through our veins. If Debbie bleeds, I get the Band-Aid. If I bleed, Debbie gets the Band-Aid. If I know you’re hurting, I will get you water. I love you with all of my heart and I love everybody.”

As Harris, who was raised a Baptist, mulls her cancer, she says her life is in God’s hands and she has no fear. She knows who she wants to speak at her funeral, which will be at Beneficent Congregational Church, more spacious than the Providence Church of God where she currently worships. She has picked out some hymns, including “How Great Thou Art.”

When I talk of death, I say someone has died. But you might hear Harris say “passed.” She explains, “It means they go from one degree of grace to another. They pass over.” Though her body will return to dust, “My spirit will soar.”

She declares, “In my heart, I just look to the heavens and I think, ‘My God! Some day I’ll see Him face to face.’”

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this week our Nation’s police officers gathered in Washington, DC to commemorate National Police Week. The week long tribute to our Nation’s Federal, State, and local police officers honors those

who have died in the line of duty and those who continue to serve and protect us at great personal risk everyday.

The first National Police Week was celebrated in 1962 when President John F. Kennedy signed an Executive Order designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as “Police Week.” Every year since, tens of thousands of Federal, State and local police officers have come to Washington to honor those that have made the ultimate sacrifice.

In addition to a number of other events, police officers join for a candle light vigil at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The first memorial service took place on May 15, 1982. On that date, approximately 125 police officers assembled in the Senate park to honor the law enforcement officers who had been killed that year. Over the past 22 years, over 3,000 law enforcement officers from around the country have been so honored.

Today, there are approximately 870,000 sworn law enforcement officers serving in the United States. Over the past 10 years, a total of 1,658 law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty, of which 145 were killed in 2003. Over the course of this week, all 145 of these officers have been honored and tonight their names will be added to National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

One way we can further honor the sacrifices of these brave men and women is to pass sensible gun safety legislation. A number of my colleagues, with my support, have sought to do just that. That is why I cosponsored the Gun Show Background Check Act introduced by Senator REED. I support that bill because I believe it is an important tool to help to prevent guns from getting into the hands of criminals. This bill simply applies existing law governing background checks to persons buying guns at gun shows. It is supported by a variety of law enforcement organizations including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Major Cities Chiefs of Police, National Black Police Association, Police Foundation and National Troopers Coalition.

The law enforcement community has also asked Congress to reauthorize the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban. The 1994 law banned a list of 19 specific weapons, as well as a number of other weapons incorporating certain design characteristics such as pistol grips, folding stocks, bayonet mounts, and flash suppressors. The assault weapons ban also prohibited the manufacture of semiautomatic weapons that incorporate at least two of these military features and which accept a detachable magazine. This law is scheduled to expire on September 13, 2004.

I support the efforts of the law enforcement community who are calling for legislation extending the law. In 1994, I voted for the assault weapons ban and, last month, I joined a bipartisan majority of the Senate in voting

to extend the assault weapons ban for 10 years.

Law enforcement support for the assault weapons ban is broad. It includes the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Police Foundation, the Police Executive Research Forum, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, the National Association of School Resource Officers, the National Fraternal Order of Police, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, and the National Black Police Association. I hope the Senate will stand with our Nation's law enforcement community and support these important pieces of gun safety legislation.

I know all of my colleagues join me in remembering those who have served and continue to serve in our Nation's law enforcement community and thanking them for their sacrifices.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. SARBANES. This week, beginning May 9th, we celebrate National Police Week, culminating in Peace Officers' Memorial Day on May 15th. It is a time for us to remember the dedicated men and women who put their lives on the line every day to make our communities safer.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy designated May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15th falls as National Police Week. During this week, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world converge on Washington, DC to participate in activities highlighting the importance of law enforcement to citizens' daily lives.

This past year, 154 police officers were killed in the line of duty. That is 154 fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, daughters, and sons who did not go home to the families waiting for them at the end of the workday. Since the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund started keeping such statistics, 16,500 police officers have been killed in the line of duty. In my home State of Maryland, we have lost a total of 246 police officers. On average, one law enforcement officer is killed somewhere in America every 53 hours. The risk encountered by those law enforcement officers serving in communities throughout this country—men and women who get up every morning to go to work knowing it is entirely possible they will not come home at the end of the day—is enormous. Such commitment deserves more than one week to appreciate.

We spend a lot of time, especially in this day and age, as we should, worrying about and praying for the nearly 150,000 young men and women serving in our armed services in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the same time, I believe it is important to reflect on the 870,000 men and women serving in law enforcement who protect our homeland day in

and day out. These are the police officers who ensure that our children get to school safely, that our roads are safe from the dangers of speeding or drunk drivers, that ensure our neighborhoods are protected from the violence associated with gangs and drugs, and that come to our aid when tragedy strikes.

I want to make mention of a few poignant examples of the risk that those involved in this profession face every day. Maryland State Police Trooper First-Class Anthony Jones was killed last week when a drunk driver struck him while he was fulfilling his duty seeking to help another trooper respond to a car accident. Trooper Jones left behind a wife and two daughters.

Then there is Detective Thomas Newman of the Baltimore City Police Department who was shot to death in 2002 in retaliation for his testifying against a man who had shot another police officer in 2001. Detective Newman was ambushed by three assailants who continued to fire at him even after he fell to the ground.

Also deserving of our thoughts and prayers this week are the families of Prince George's County Sheriffs Deputies Elizabeth Magruder and James Arnaud. The two were shot and killed while serving a court order for an emergency psychiatric evaluation on a man in Prince George's County. Magruder left behind a husband and four-year-old son while Arnaud left behind a wife, son, daughter and grandchildren.

These are just a few examples of the brave men and women who put their lives on the line so that all of us can sleep more soundly at night. The sacrifices they and their families have made are too numerous to count and to deep for words to express. But at least during this National Police Week, we are able to take a moment to appreciate their efforts and the efforts of their colleagues that are still serving. As St. John said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."•

JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS STRENGTH (JOBS) ACT

IRS FREE FILE PROGRAM

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I commend the chairman and ranking member of the Finance Committee, Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS, for their work on the Tax Administration Good Government Act. The legislation provides taxpayer safeguards, streamlines tax administration, and simplifies the tax code. I do have some concern with one provision in the bill. Specifically, the bill also includes a provision on the IRS Free File Program. The Free File Program is the result of a public-private partnership agreement between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, LLC, a group of tax software companies managed by the Council for the Electronic Revenue Communication Advancement, CERCA. It is important

to continue to promote these types of public-private partnerships and it is my hope that we can work together on this provision as we move to conference with the House of Representatives.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I thank the Senator from Virginia. The IRS Free File Program is a direct result of the goal that Congress set for the IRS to have 80 percent of returns filed electronically by 2007. The partnership agreement calls for the Free File Alliance to provide free tax preparation and filing to at least 60 percent of all taxpayers or approximately 78 million individuals who file an individual tax return. Each participating software company has its own eligibility requirements. The eligibility requirements ensure that lower income, disadvantaged and under-served taxpayers benefit from the free file program with the Free File Alliance, LLC. The provision in the bill was intended to ensure that the taxpayers participating in the Free File Program were affirmatively consenting to solicitation for other products or services. I look forward to working with him to ensure that we continue to promote such public-private partnerships.

Mr. BAUCUS. I agree with Chairman GRASSLEY. It is our intent with the Free File provision to protect the integrity of our voluntary tax system by providing lower income, disadvantaged and under-served taxpayers the ability to meet their filing obligation without subjecting themselves to unwanted marketing. I also commit to work with Senator ALLEN as we conference with the House.

Mr. ALLEN. I thank the chairman and ranking member.

CONTINUING CARE FACILITIES

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Finance Committee, Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS, for including a provision that I supported as part of the Tax Administration Good Government Act to level the playing field for residents of qualified continuing care retirement communities.

Continuing care retirement communities, or CCRCs, are the oldest form of seniors housing in America, dating back to the late 1800s—offering a variety of living arrangements and services to accommodate residents of all levels of physical ability and health. The goal of a CCRC is to accommodate changing lifestyle preferences and health care needs. In general, CCRCs make independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing available all on one campus. The CCRC approach offers residents the psychological and financial security of knowing that, should they require increased levels of care, it is readily available at one location. As a private pay option, CCRCs also play an important role in the Nation's long-term care delivery system because very few, if any, CCRC residents will ever require Medicaid funding for their long-term care.