

Mall will culminate a long effort to honor America's World War II generation. I take a quick moment to thank my friend former Majority Leader Bob Dole, a wounded and decorated WWII veteran who served in this body, for chairing the World War II Memorial Commission and for giving countless hours to this wonderful work.

It has been nearly 59 years since the end of World War II. However, I think it is safe to say that from 1939 to 1945, when every major power in the world was involved in a worldwide conflict—those times, like the Civil War, were some of our nation's toughest. We live in a remarkably different world today, but Memorial Day has kept many memories. At this moment in America's history, our men and women in uniform are engaged in conflict in both Iraq and Afghanistan. They serve with the same courage and commitment shown by Americans of generations past, and they deserve our thoughts and prayers.

From the Bataan Peninsula to beaches of Normandy, from the Ia Drang Valley to Inchon, from Iwo Jima and Okinawa to the North Apennine Mountains of Italy, from Afghanistan to Iraq, and many other conflicts too numerous to mention, American men and women have fought and died because of their love of country.

I am proud that we have kept up Memorial Day. This one, in particular, brings significant meaning and a special time to remember and reflect. I pay a special tribute today to those who have fallen during the two conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, including those from my home state of New Mexico: CPT Tamara Archuleta of Los Lunas; Marine CPL Aaron Austin of Lovington; SrA Jason Cunningham of Carlsbad; Army SP James Pirtle of La Mesa; and Marine PFC Christopher Ramos of Albuquerque.

As we enjoy this holiday weekend with our family and friends, let us take some time to recognize the valor with which so many of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have fought when called upon by their country. Finally, may our United States continue to be blessed and may America forever remain the land of the free and the home of the brave.

#### HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, more than 60 years ago a generation of Americans answered the call to service, leaving their daily lives and joining the fight in a world war that would dramatically change the way this country, and the world, conducted itself. Raised during the Great Depression, this "Greatest Generation" would have such a profound impact on our history that is almost impossible to overstate. Their legacy is formidable and lasting.

Almost six decades later, we are finally paying full tribute to those men and women, and this generation, who

served and sacrificed their lives in defense of this great Nation and who ultimately saved the world from tyranny and tyrants. No doubt, those men and women and their triumph over evil have served as a stark reminder and inspiration to the men and women in uniform who have followed in their permanent footsteps.

However, the presence of this generation was not limited to the islands of the Pacific or the beaches of Normandy; it was also displayed by those who remained in this country to mobilize the home front during and after the war. No one can question the hard work and dedication this generation embraced that ultimately pushed this nation to the position of global economic, military, political, and social leadership we still maintain today. Almost overnight, America moved from isolation to a country of engagement.

Having learned this lesson well, America remained engaged with the world after the war, struggling against the advance of communism, and ultimately winning that battle.

I am proud of the role the citizens of my state played in these struggles, and as such, I would like to take a moment to honor those Idahoans who served and to those who lost their lives as a result of World War II. Their strong commitment and dedication to their state and to our country has not and will not go unnoticed. I am reminded of a saying, "For your tomorrow, we gave our today." This statement embodies what this generation gave; but words can't fully describe what the soldiers and survivors of WWII contributed to this nation, during and after the war. That contribution changed the course, not only of our Nation, but of the entire world. We continue to see the repercussions of it today, and to be honest, I believe the effect will continue to be felt long after all of us are gone. The official motto of Idaho is "Esto Perpetua," meaning "May it last forever." Well, the same could probably be said of the influence of this generation on America.

Still, despite playing such a profound role in American history, until this year, there was no monument or memorial in our Nation's capital that honored the sacrifices of all World War II veterans. We have monuments and memorials for Vietnam and the Korean War, as we should. Just across the river in Arlington, there is the Iwo Jima Memorial which honors the U.S. Marines who served in World War II. It is a beautiful and fitting commemoration of the leathernecks' service in that conflict but just that branch, not all the services.

This Memorial Day, we will dedicate, at long last, the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall. I believe it is fitting that the memorial should take its place alongside Lincoln, Jefferson and Washington, in the place our nation comes to remember and honor the greatest deeds in our great history. I thank our veterans for

their service, for guaranteeing my freedom and those of all Americans, and I wish them a Happy Memorial Day.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, this week marks the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the Supreme Court decision that ultimately ended legal segregation in schools and helped catalyze a better education for all of America's children.

This landmark decision was the first significant action by an institution of national government in the struggle for equality. However, it would be naive to believe that Brown erased the hatred and ignorance that black families faced when testing their rights to a better education. One of the most dramatic examples occurred on September 24, 1957 when President Eisenhower ordered federal troops to Little Rock, AR to allow nine black children, the Little Rock Nine, to attend the all-white Central High School.

Of her experience, Melba Pattillo Beals of the Little Rock Nine recalls: "I had to become a warrior. I had to learn not how to dress the best but how to get from that door to the end of the hall without dying." Her act of courage, and those of the other eight students who integrated Little Rock Central, helped change history for all Americans in a tale that continues to have immediacy.

Another one of those students was Ernest Green, who best explains why the Little Rock Nine sacrificed their innocence for a chance at a better education. He said, "We wanted to widen options for ourselves and later for our children." Mr. Green was the first black student to graduate from Central High School. He later served as Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Affairs under President Jimmy Carter and now serves as the vice president of Lehman Brothers.

Turning opportunity into achievement is what civil rights pioneer Daisy Bates had in mind when she helped the Little Rock Nine break down the barriers that stood between them and an equal education. Despite threats on her life and financial ruin, Daisy Bates made significant strides in the courtroom and increased public awareness through her newspaper.

Mr. President, as a former student of Central High, I can tell you the impact of the Little Rock Nine is still felt in the hearts of its student body and teachers past and present. In 2007, Central High will commemorate the 50th anniversary of its desegregation crises. The National Park Service plans to build the Little Rock Central High School Visitors Center in time for this watershed anniversary, and I will be urging my colleagues to support funding for this endeavor later this year.

What we know today is that children all over America have the right to learn—whether their ancestors came to America on slave ships or the Mayflower. What we know today is that we all benefit when we learn together and work together for a common purpose. What we know today is

there are more black doctors, lawyers, judges and elected officials than ever before. What we know today is that there is more equality and more opportunity for all children.

But what we don't know, what we still question is whether we have really achieved the inclusion, equality and diversity in our schools that the Court intended when it struck down the "separate but equal" doctrine and required the desegregation of schools across America. I do not believe we have met the promise of Brown yet.

I am concerned that many public schools in Arkansas and around the country remain segregated by race and class, still unequal in regard to performance and resources. Today, a fourth-grade Hispanic child is only one-third as likely to read at the same level as a fourth grade white child. Only fifty percent of African-Americans are finishing high school, and only 18 percent are graduating from college.

We must do better, and President Bush and the Congress can do better by keeping the promises made to parents and students when it passed the No Child Left Behind Act. We must live up to this promise, and provide every child access to a quality public education. Daisy Bates, the Little Rock Nine and countless civil rights leaders did not endure hardship and sacrifice for us to fail now.

Mr. President, on this landmark anniversary, let us stand together to celebrate how far we have come. But let us also acknowledge the problems that stand in the way to a better education for all children. And let us commit ourselves to preparing our children for today's expectations and tomorrow's challenges.

#### 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.

On June 1, 2000, Gary William Mick, 25, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder, attempted murder, and armed robbery after admitting that he murdered a gay man and tried to kill another because he believed gay men were "evil." In the first attack, a New Jersey man was bludgeoned to death with a claw hammer. Mick met his second victim, a dentist, at a bar. There, he had dinner with him and went home with him. Mick later attacked the man with a knife, a struggle ensued, and the victim escaped. Mick told police that a childhood incident caused him to hate homosexuals.

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.

#### A COLOSSAL FAILURE OF WHITE HOUSE LEADERSHIP IN IRAQ

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, according to the Washington Post, a recent poll by the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, which is, for all intents and purposes, an entity of the U.S. Government, showed that 80 percent of the Iraqis surveyed reported a lack of confidence in the CPA and 82 percent disapprove of the U.S. and allied militaries in Iraq.

I mention this for two reasons.

First, I remember when, less than 2 months ago, much was made by administration officials and several Senators of a February poll which suggested that Iraqis strongly supported the U.S. occupation. They held it up as proof that our strategy was working, even if they could not explain what the strategy was.

To quote one of my friends on the other side of the aisle, who spoke on April 8:

[I] noticed the BBC/ABC poll results in Iraq, which are fascinating. I only wish Americans were as upbeat about America as Iraqis are about Iraq. If you watched U.S. TV every day, you would think there was nothing but bad things happening in Iraq . . . But, in fact, in the BBC/ABC poll, which was taken from February 9th to February 28th, in answer to the question, "How are things going today, good or bad, in Iraq?" Overall, 70 percent said good, 29 percent said bad. . . And in terms of the optimism factor, how they will be a year from now, 71 percent of Iraqis thought things would be better a year from now . . .

He concluded by saying that this encouraging news was thanks to the leadership of the President of the United States.

Whatever the accuracy of that February poll, the CPA's recent poll indicates that far more Iraqis today oppose what we are doing in Iraq. The CPA's poll also shows that more than half of Americans surveyed oppose the President's policy.

This latest poll also compels us to ask why so many of the people we sought to liberate, and did liberate from the brutality of Saddam, turned against us so quickly. And why so many Americans are questioning the President's decision to go to war.

There are many reasons, the genesis of which dates back to the President's fateful decision to shift gears from fighting al-Qaida, which had attacked us, to overthrowing Saddam Hussein, who had not attacked us and who apparently had no plan or ability to.

That decision, followed by a remarkable series of miscalculations and misguided policies, has enmeshed our troops in an ill-fated, costly war from which neither the President, nor anyone else in his Administration, appears to have the faintest idea of how to extricate ourselves.

Let's review the history.

After September 11, there was nearly universal support for retaliation against al-Qaida. There was widespread sympathy and support for the United States from around the world. But then the President, encouraged by a handful of Pentagon and White House officials, most notably the Vice President, who were fixated on Saddam Hussein, changed course. And what followed, I believe, has very possibly increased the risk of terrorism against Americans.

We remember when someone in the administration "gave currency to a fraud," to quote George Will, by putting in the President's 2003 State of the Union speech that Iraq was trying to buy uranium in Africa.

This administration repeatedly, insistently and unrelentingly justified pre-emptive war by insisting that Saddam Hussein not only had weapons of mass destruction but was hell-bent on using them against us and our allies.

Administration officials, led by Vice President CHENEY, repeatedly tried to link Saddam Hussein to 9/11 in order to build public support for the war, though there never was any link—none.

Truth tellers in the administration—like General Shinseki and Lawrence Lindsay—were either ridiculed or hounded out of their jobs because they had the temerity to suggest realistic estimates for the number of soldiers and amount of money it would take to do the job right in Iraq.

Incredibly, there was no real plan, despite a year-long, \$5 million study by the State Department, to deal with the widespread looting that greeted our soldiers once Saddam had fallen—doubling or tripling the cost of reconstruction, and leaving open the gates to stockpiles of weapons and ammunition that have been used with deadly results against our soldiers.

We remember President Bush flying onto the aircraft carrier and declaring "Mission Accomplished" when, in fact, the worst of it was ahead.

Two months later, the President taunted Iraqi resistance fighters to "Bring It On!" while our troops were still in harm's way and were fending off ambushes and roadside attacks every day and every night.

Some of our closest allies and friends, like Mexico and Canada, and even those countries Secretary Rumsfeld called "Old Europe," were belittled and alienated because they disagreed with our strategy of pre-emptive war—countries whose diplomatic and intelligence and military support we so desperately need today.

That sorry chronology has brought us to where we are today. Each day that passes, more Iraqis seem to turn against us, threatening the mission and morale of our troops.

The latest episode in this misguided adventure is the Abu Ghraib prison scandal. It is tragic for many reasons, but none more so than the harm it has caused to the image of our Armed