

In June 2004, President Musselman completes her tour of duty as Department President; and I officially recognize her for her outstanding service to veterans and her country.

AMVETS DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER REGIS W. RILEY

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, today, I would like to recognize an American patriot, one who has served his country faithfully and dutifully for over 30 years both in military service and as a leader of one of Pennsylvania's most active veteran service organizations—the American Veterans or, AMVETS as it is called. In June 2004, Regis W. Riley will complete his elected tour of duty as AMVETS Department Commander. As he departs this position of responsibility, it is appropriate that he be recognized not only for his successful year as Department Commander, but also for his many contributions and his many years of leadership in AMVETS.

Following his honorable discharge from active duty in the U.S. Army in 1974, Rege, as he is known to all, worked his way through the ranks of AMVETS in a number of leadership positions including Post Commander for 9 years, Commander of the Western Region, and President of the Pennsylvania State War Veterans Council. Rege is also a voting member of the Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission.

His dedication to the cause of veterans has been his hallmark including coordination of the Memorial Day, Pearl Harbor Day, and Veterans Day Ceremonies in the Mon Valley and surrounding areas and service in the cause of homeless veterans as Chairman of the National Homeless Veterans Committee. He is a recipient of the Leadership of Excellence Pin, the National AMVETS' Recruiter of the Year Award and in 2001, he was honored as the Department of Pennsylvania AMVET Member of the Year.

As Rege departs the position as Department Commander, it is appropriate that Pennsylvanians, particularly Pennsylvania's veterans say thank you for dedication and leadership and a job well done.

VFW PENNSYLVANIA STATE
COMMANDER CHARLES PRINCE

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, today, I would like to recognize an American patriot, one who has served his country faithfully and dutifully for over 50 years. During this period when recognition was recently given to America's greatest generation through the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize an American patriot, one who has served his country faithfully and honorably not only in World War II, but also in the Korean War. Charles Prince served in the United States Navy aboard four Navy men-of-war, the

USS *Missouri*, the USS *South Dakota*, and USS *Quincy* and the USS *Donaldson*. For his service, he received the Victory Medal, American Campaign Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Ribbon with seven stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two stars and the Good Conduct Medal.

Following his military service, Charles Prince did what many veterans returning to Pennsylvania did; he joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He rose through the ranks of the VFW and became the Post Commander in Confluence, PA and All American District Commander for the 23rd District in 1996. On June 28, 2003, Charles Prince was elected State Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars and in June 2004, he will complete this tour of duty. In addition, Charles has been an advocate for national security and veterans employment and has served on VFW committees in support of these endeavors.

His government service did not end with the military. After 17 years of service in the Somerset county Assessment Office, he retired as Somerset County Appraiser.

While Commander Prince is rightfully proud of his service to his country, I suspect that he ranks as the greatest event in his life his 55 years of marriage to his wife Jean. I wish them continued health and happiness.

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT
PRESIDENT DELIA ANN KREILING

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, on the occasion of completion of her tour as Pennsylvania's President of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, it is honor and pleasure to cite Delia "Dee" Ann Kreiling for her leadership, her many years of service with AMVETS and her compassion in the care of veterans.

Dee's late father Elmer was a World War II veteran and like the daughters of many veterans, she saw service in the cause of veterans as a duty. As the coordinator of Veterans Services at the University of Pittsburgh, she has overseen for many years a staff of student veterans who assist eligible veterans and family members in receiving their education benefits. During the past year, Dee has focused her energies on "Sharing and Caring," a program of service to hospitalized veterans. In 2001, she was the recipient of the Pennsylvania AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Member of the Year Award.

In addition to her enthusiasm in addressing veterans' issues, Dee has also been active for several years in "Shoes for the Needy" and the St. Jude's Ranch for Children.

On behalf of Pennsylvanians and Pennsylvania veterans, I salute her for her many contributions and for her leadership.

VEST BUSTER

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I have long been concerned about a new .50

caliber handgun manufactured by Smith and Wesson Corporation declared the "most powerful production revolver in the world today." Now, the Violence Policy Center reports that these handguns can blast through the body armor of our nation's law enforcement officers. This should disturb all Americans and all who care about the safety of our law enforcement personnel.

This new weapon fires a .500 Smith and Wesson Magnum bullet packing a muzzle force of 2,600 foot-pounds. The bullet is half an inch wide and is more powerful than comparable ammunition because it is much longer and contains more gunpowder. According to the Violence Policy Center's analysis, the .500 Smith & Wesson Magnum round far exceeds the protection level of the highest grade of concealable body armor normally used by law enforcement officers.

Body armor has saved the lives of countless numbers of law enforcement officers because of its ability to stop handgun rounds. The .500 Smith & Wesson Magnum round is more powerful than some rifle rounds. According to data compiled by the Violence Policy Center, during the 1990 to 1999 period, 20 officers were killed by gunshot wounds as a result of rounds penetrating their body armor. A rifle fired each one of these rounds. However, the .500 Smith & Wesson Magnum takes pistol power to rifle-power level and presents a deadly challenge to the life-saving record of law enforcement's body armor.

The decision to produce the .50 caliber handgun represents a great step backward in efforts to improve gun safety. Instead of sensible steps to make guns safer and keep guns from getting into the wrong hands, this moves in the opposite direction, creating a handgun that is reported to have double the power of most assault rifles.

I am a cosponsor of the Military Sniper Weapon Regulation Act, a bill which would change the way .50 caliber sniper rifles are regulated by placing them under the requirements of the National Firearms Act. This bill would subject the sniper rifles to the same regimen of registration and background checks as other weapons of war, such as machine guns. The new Smith and Wesson .50 caliber handgun should be included in this legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT
OF 2003

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I wish 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 May 10, 2001, in North Richland Hills, TX, David Israel Avery, 17, was charged with criminal mischief for allegedly attacking two gay teens.

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.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2498. A bill to provide for a 10-year extension of the assault weapons ban.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2504. A bill to make improvements to the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2505. A bill to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low power FM service; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1840

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1840, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm and ranch land to voluntarily make their land available for access by the public under programs administered by States.

S. 2015

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2015, a bill to prohibit energy market manipulation.

S. 2072

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2072, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a nonrefundable tax credit for elder care expenses.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2505. A bill to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low power FM serv-

ice; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Low Power Radio Act of 2004. This bill would allow the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to license Low Power FM stations on third adjacent channels to full power stations without limitations and eliminate the requirement that the FCC perform further testing on the economic impact of Low Power FM radio. Additionally, the bill seeks to protect stations that provide radio reading services, which some have suggested are more susceptible to interference than other stations because they are carried on a subcarrier frequency. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Senator LEAHY who is a co-sponsor of the bill. I thank him for his support.

This bill would also right a serious wrong. Four years ago, Congress wrongly delayed the full implementation of a new community based radio service called "Low Power FM" due to broadcasters' grossly exaggerated claims of interference. The FCC recently found, based on data from an independent engineering study, that the broadcasters' claims of interference are groundless. As required, the FCC sent a report to Congress in February describing the study's results and suggesting legislative actions to further the growth of Low Power FM. This bill would implement these recommendations.

In January 2000, the FCC launched Low Power FM radio service to "enhance locally focused community-oriented radio broadcasting." Low Power FM stations are just that—low power radio stations on the FM band that generally reach an audience within a 3.5 mile radius of the station's transmitter. In rural areas, this signal may not reach many people, but it provides rural citizens with another media outlet—another voice in the market. In urban areas, this signal may reach hundreds of thousands of people and provide not just local content, but very specific neighborhood news and information.

Localism is increasingly important in today's changing media landscape. Rampant ownership consolidation has taken place in the radio industry since passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Since that time, many Americans have complained that the large media conglomerates fail to serve local communities' interests and seem to use their local station license as a conduit to air national programming. Low Power FM was introduced, in part, to respond to such complaints.

Low Power FM is an affordable broadcasting option for many community organizations because a full power radio station license is extremely expensive and broadcast spectrum is very scarce. In 2003, the average cost to acquire a commercial radio station was more than \$2.5 million dollars.

Between May 1999 and May 2000, the Commission received over 3,400 applica-

tions for Low Power FM stations from non-commercial educational entities and community organizations. However, before the Commission could act on many of the applications for this new community service, broadcasters frightened legislators into halting the full implementation of Low Power FM. Broadcasters masqueraded their true concerns about competition from a real local radio broadcaster in thinly veiled claims of interference.

Due to the broadcasters' subterfuge, Congress added language to a 2000 appropriations bill requiring the FCC to hire an independent engineering firm to further study broadcasters' claims of interference. Well, the results are in! I am not happy to report that after spending almost two years and over two million dollars, the independent study revealed what the FCC and community groups had said all along: LPFM will do no harm to other broadcasters. The study has stripped the broadcasters of their veiled claims by concluding that Low Power FM stations on third adjacent channels would cause virtually no interference to other broadcast stations.

The broadcasters masquerade has now cost American taxpayers over two million dollars. This was two million dollars taken from the FCC's budget that could have been used to further study efficient spectrum use to promote public safety needs, process license applications faster, hire more high quality engineers for the FCC and much more. Perhaps, we should send a bill to the National Association of Broadcasters. Nevertheless, that is the past, and it is time to focus on the future.

That brings us to the future of Low Power FM. The FCC, as required by the appropriations language, has reported the study's findings to Congress and recommends full implementation of Low Power FM. This bill simply follows the FCC's recommendation: begin licensing Low Power FM stations on third adjacent channels to full power stations without limitations. Additionally, the bill seeks to protect full power stations that provide radio reading services. It is estimated that about 1.1 million people in the U.S. are blind, and it is important to ensure this helpful radio reading service remains interference free.

The enactment of this bill will immediately make available a number of Low Power FM frequencies. By some estimates, Congress' legislation delaying the full implementation, which mostly affected metropolitan areas, led to the elimination of half the Low Power FM applications filed during 2000.

For example, Congress' action eliminated the LPFM slot in Fresno applied for by El Comite de los Pobres. The group had hoped to address the dearth of local programming for the Latino community by airing bilingual coverage of local issues. New Orleans' Music Business Institute's application