

An important principle of the amendment is that it allows for Federal prosecution of hate crimes without impeding the rights of States to prosecute these same crimes.

The adoption of this amendment by the Senate is an important step forward in ensuring that the perpetrators of these harmful crimes are brought to justice. The American public knows that Congress should pass this legislation, and I call upon the conferees to retain this important provision during the conference on this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. I will ask unanimous consent the resolution relative to the Detroit Pistons victory be introduced in 1 minute, but first I ask unanimous consent that I temporarily turn the floor over to Senator BIDEN. Then I will introduce this unanimous consent resolution, Senator STABENOW will be recognized for 5 minutes, I will be recognized for 5 minutes, and then Senator MILLER will be recognized for 8 minutes after that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Delaware.

A TRIBUTE TO BETTY STRONG: THE POLITICS OF DECENCY

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an incredible woman. There are a number of benefits that flow, as my friend, the Presiding Officer, knows, even from failed Presidential efforts seeking to get the nomination as he and I have both done. We meet some extraordinary people who put their lives on hold for you because they believe in what you are trying to do. There was such a woman who just passed away in Iowa, in Sioux City. Her name is Betty Strong.

Theodore Roosevelt said:

The most practical politics is the politics of decency.

There was none more practical or more decent than Betty Strong, the matriarch of the Democratic politics of Iowa. She was a wonderful woman whose friendship and memory I will always cherish and whose friendship with her husband I still cherish.

Anyone who knows Iowa politics—and I know the Presiding Officer knows Iowa politics at least from the Republican side of the effort—knows the name Betty Strong. Senator HARKIN and I have been reminiscing all day with wonderful stories we have about her. Time will not permit me to speak to all of these, but she was a master political craftsman. She understood grassroots organizational politics better than anyone. She was a community leader in the best sense of the word. She brought people together around the process and around the issues.

She was a woman of uncanny insight and extraordinary good sense, basic honest judgment, and something that seems altogether too uncommon these days: a depth of good will, unmatched by anyone I have met in politics.

We can find thousands of examples of strong, tough-minded, powerful women

in our history who have left their mark, big and small, on our lives, from Helen Keller to Eleanor Roosevelt. All of them inspired a Nation. All of them gave us hope. But few have had as much of a personal impact as Betty Strong of Iowa, who just followed her heart, got involved, did what she wanted to do, and did what she believed was right for the community.

She was tough, strong, and smart. She started in politics in the early 1950s at a time when back rooms were still smoke filled and the sound of a woman's voice was a cause for heads to turn. I can only imagine that Betty did not hesitate to cut through that smoke and speak her mind, even back in the 1950s, and when she did, I imagine she caused those old party bosses to turn their heads on more than one occasion. When she spoke, everyone listened. I know I did.

Margaret Thatcher said:

Success is having a flair for the thing that you are doing, and knowing that it is not enough, you have to work hard and have a sense of purpose.

Betty was a success because she worked as hard as anyone I have ever had the pleasure to work with and she had a powerful sense of purpose. She absolutely loved politics as much as she absolutely loved Iowa. She loved the process, and everyone respected her for that.

She was a rare woman who had the depth of an abiding commitment to the rough and tumble of organizational door-to-door politics. Boy, did she know how to work a room. You had to see her work. She could read people. She had, as my mother would say, the sixth sense about how to persuade and bring people to her side, how to convince them she was right. She was, indeed, a very persuasive woman. There was no doubt that when you were with her, you wanted to be on her side.

But I don't think winning was Betty's real goal. It was not what drove her. I think she cared deeply about the fact that people need to be engaged and they contribute to making things better, they find a cause and take a side, they fight for what is in their heart and their gut, and they move the system in the right direction.

For Betty Strong, it was community that mattered most. It was the democratic process she cared about, and she believed that it worked best when you have maximum participation.

That is not to say that she did not have a deeply held set of values and beliefs that drove her politics; she did.

First and foremost, she was a Democrat—a Democrat Democrat, as the folks in Alabama used to say: a Yellow Dog Democrat. She had the hash marks and battle scars of more than 40 years of engagement to prove it.

If I had to categorize her politics, I would say she was an old-fashioned but practical FDR Democrat, an accomplished activist who fought on behalf of organized labor and through the Central Labor Council for the basic dignity of American workers.

I remember how she welcomed my wife Jill and me to her home as she welcomed a host of Democratic candidates over the years. And she did not hesitate to make her opinions known. She did not hesitate to share her love and affection with you.

But partisanship is not a word I think of when I remember Betty Strong. The word I think of is "democracy." To watch her in action was to understand what Teddy Roosevelt meant when he said, "the politics of decency." She was a decent person, as decent as any I have ever met in my public life. She was as engaged as she was engaging, as warm as she was tough, and as wise as she was shrewd.

To see her build a coalition, to watch her rally support, was to realize that all she wanted to do was bring the best out in people.

I first met her in 1987. I stayed in contact with her over the entire time until her death. She was a friend of mine, a friend of Senator HARKIN's, and a friend of many of us here.

I only wish we had more like her in both parties. You have them in your party, as I have them in mine. And, God, they are beloved. They are beloved people. But it seems like the generation is passing of the people who made the commitment she made.

She knew all politics was local, but she also knew local politics made up what this Nation is. She was a nation builder. She was a great woman. I miss her. Our sympathies to Darrell and her family.

I thank the Chair and I thank my colleagues for their graciousness. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

HONORING THE DETROIT PISTONS ON WINNING THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 380, submitted earlier today by myself and Senator STABENOW.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 380) honoring the Detroit Pistons on winning the National Basketball Association Championship on June 15, 2004.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator STABENOW be recognized for her approximately 5-minute statement, and that I then be recognized for my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I thank my friend and colleague from Michigan.

Mr. President, I rise today with my friend from Michigan to offer this resolution congratulating the Detroit Pistons for winning the National Basketball Association Championship.

What a game, and what a win.

In a remarkable display of toughness, talent, tenacity, and old-fashioned hard work, the Pistons made history yesterday by winning their third consecutive home game at the Palace of Auburn Hills to clinch their third NBA title.

It was the first time in NBA Finals history that the home team won the third, the fourth, and the fifth game at home.

The Pistons embody all that I love about the people of Michigan. They are a determined, hard-working team that has shown relentless determination to achieve their goal. The Pistons are a complete team. They sacrifice personal gains for the good of their teammates. And we saw that over and over again last night. They dove for loose balls, and they played great defense.

Like the people of Michigan, the Pistons do not seek the limelight but, rather, let their performance on and off the court speak for itself.

Off the court, the Pistons launched their Read to Achieve Program in October 2001. I was very pleased to participate in one of their reading events. To date, they have opened four reading and learning centers, the most recent last Monday at the Cornerstone Elementary Linwood Campus Library. And they have donated their time to read with over 4,500 students throughout Michigan.

On the court, the Pistons faced many hurdles to win this title. First, they overcame a grueling regular season schedule to win 54 games. Next, they outlasted three of the toughest teams in the Eastern Conference playoffs: the Milwaukee Bucks, the New Jersey Nets, and the Indiana Pacers to make it to the NBA Finals.

In the end, the Pistons prevailed against the storied Los Angeles Lakers, a franchise with 14 titles to its credit, four future Hall of Famers, and a future Hall of Fame coach, Phil Jackson, who has coached nine NBA championship teams.

Our Pistons beat them all and showed they are the best.

I would like to take a moment to recognize members of the Pistons organization who made this remarkable season possible.

Congratulations, first, to Bill Davidson, the Pistons owner, a man who has had a wonderful year. Mr. Davidson, a generous philanthropist for the last 25 years, adds the Pistons' NBA title to the Detroit Shock's 2003 WNBA championship.

I also congratulate the Pistons President of Basketball Operations, Joe Dumars. As an NBA player, Joe was one of the driving forces on the 1989 and 1990 Pistons championship teams, and proved to be equally valuable in the Pistons front office by assembling this terrific team.

Next, of course, big congratulations are in order to Larry Brown, the first coach to win an NBA championship and an NCAA title. The much traveled Hall of Fame coach made his nest in Detroit this year and won this championship by asking his players to play basketball the "right way," emphasizing defense, rebounding, and team play. This kind of old-fashioned philosophy is the kind of workman-like philosophy we value in Michigan.

Finally, and most importantly, cheers to the guys doing the hard work on the hardwood. The Pistons starting backcourt of Richard Hamilton and Finals MVP Chauncey Billups provided the leadership, scoring, and defense when the team needed it most. Each game, the tandem of Ben Wallace and Rasheed Wallace erected a virtual wall around the Pistons basket and blocked shots and collected rebounds that were critical to the Pistons' success—and great fun to watch.

Joining the Wallaces in the front court was Tayshaun Prince, the long-armed forward who made the highlight-reel block of a layup during game 2 of the Eastern Conference Finals that turned that series around and propelled the Pistons to the NBA Finals.

Finally, the contributions of the Pistons reserves, known collectively as the "Alternatorz," proved invaluable, as they always provided a spark whenever they were called upon.

Mr. President, I attended game 3 of the NBA Finals last Thursday evening with my son. It was very exciting, and I can tell you that Pistons basketball is a beautiful thing to watch. And though this Detroit Pistons team is not known for its physical play, as the "Bad Boys" teams of 1989 and 1990 were, it is known for the intimidating presence of the Pistons center and spiritual leader, Ben Wallace.

Aside from the Pistons' victory, there was nothing more entertaining and fun to watch than seeing the countless Detroit fans at the Palace wearing wigs resembling Ben Wallace's hair. Looking forward to next year, I want to pass on a message to the NBA I saw on one fan's sign: "Fear the Fro."

Again, congratulations to all the Pistons players, coaches, and staff who made this championship possible. This was truly a magnificent accomplishment for fans in Detroit and across the State of Michigan.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the names of the Pistons players and coaches be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I might also say, I look forward to collecting, with my colleague, on the bet that Senator LEVIN and I won from our colleagues and friends from California.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

EXHIBIT 1

DETROIT PISTONS—2004 NBA WORLD CHAMPIONS
Players: Chauncey Billups, Elden Campbell, Tremaine Fowlkes, Darvin Ham, Rich-

ard Hamilton, Lindsey Hunter, Mike James, Darko Milicic, Mehmet Okur, Tayshaun Prince, Ben Wallace, Rasheed Wallace, Corliss Williamson,

Head Coach: Larry Brown

Assistant Coach: Herb Brown, Dave Hanners, Igor Kokoskov, John Kuester, Mike Woodson

Athletic Trainer: Mike Abdenour

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, last night before 22,000 fans, a gritty bunch of Detroit Pistons achieved one of the biggest championship basketball upsets in history. In a league that has long emphasized the role of its star players, the Detroit Pistons bring to mind another famous team, the 1980 U.S. Olympic gold medal hockey team, and remind us that teamwork, perseverance, desire, and defense win championships.

The Detroit Pistons president Joe Dumars and his staff, with the full and total support of the owner Bill Davidson, put together a team not built around one or two superstars but on the solid play of all of its members. In their effort to build a team that could advance through the playoffs and win a championship, the Pistons made a midseason trade for Rasheed Wallace, a talented and multidimensional power forward.

In a league where bold season-changing trades are rare, this move gave the Pistons a potent front court scoring option and another rebounding and shot blocking presence to compliment two-time defensive player of the year Ben Wallace. Throughout the series the Pistons were the true definition of a team, with each and every Piston contributing in some way during their run for the championship.

NBA finals MVP Chauncey Billups, who has played for five teams in his short career, looked at home with the Pistons and played a stellar series on both ends of the court. For this year, at least, they could have renamed MVP the MVT for the "most valuable team," because this was truly a team effort. It must have been extremely difficult for the people who selected the MVP to single out just one Piston because they truly were a unit.

In Larry Brown, the Pistons had obtained a coach who over the course of 31 years of coaching had developed a reputation as a keen student of the game, able to motivate players and respect his players and make gametime adjustments with great skill. Focusing his players on his favorite mantra—play the right way—Coach Brown was able to prove that by sharing the ball and sharing the glory, even the star-studded Lakers could be defeated. Over the course of the season Coach Brown became the first coach in basketball history to win both an NBA and NCAA championship title.

The country may have viewed the Pistons as the underdog, but thanks to Coach Brown, his players remained hungry for a championship and always believed in their hearts that they were up to the challenge.

So our heartiest congratulations to the Detroit Pistons, as the players, coaches, staff, and fans celebrate their third NBA championship. The effect of these finals will be felt for a long time.

As a Detroit and proud citizen of Michigan, I know the huge impetus, the wonderful momentum, the great feeling that pervades and permeates my home State tonight. Since Detroit is now home to both the WNBA and NBA champions, perhaps Detroit, long known as Hockeytown USA, will now be recognized as Hoopstown USA as well.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relative to the resolution be printed in the RECORD without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COLEMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 380) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 380

Whereas the Detroit Pistons finished second in the Central Division of the Eastern Conference and won the National Basketball Association (NBA) World Championship for the first time since winning back to back Championships in 1989 and 1990;

Whereas the Detroit Pistons is the first Eastern Conference team to win the Championship since 1998;

Whereas the Detroit Pistons by defeating the heavily-favored Los Angeles Lakers 4 games to 1 showed grit, determination, discipline, and unity, thereby securing their third National Basketball Association World Championship;

Whereas the Detroit Pistons completed an incredible season with strong performances from many key players, including Finals Most Valuable Player Chauncey Billups, two-time Defensive Player of the Year Ben Wallace, a new head coach in Larry Brown and savvy front office executives such as Joe Dumars;

Whereas Detroit Pistons owner Bill Davidson became the first owner to win an NBA and WNBA championship, as well as the Stanley Cup championship, in the span of 12 months;

Whereas President of Basketball Operations Joe Dumars built a cohesive championship team through smart draft choices, key free agent signings and bold trades, including the mid-season acquisition of Rasheed Wallace, a vital part of the Pistons' impenetrable frontline;

Whereas Detroit Pistons Head Coach Larry Brown, the oldest coach to win an NBA Championship, became the first coach to win both an NBA and NCAA championship;

Whereas each member of the Detroit Pistons roster, including Chauncey Billups, Elden Campbell, Tremaine Fowlkes, Darwin Ham, Richard Hamilton, Lindsey Hunter, Mike James, Darko Milicic, Mehmet Okur, Tayshaun Prince, Ben Wallace, Rasheed Wallace, Corliss Williamson, made meaningful contributions to the success of the basketball team and proved once again that the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts;

Whereas Detroit Pistons fans made a meaningful contribution to the success of

their basketball team through their energy and passion which was on display throughout the regular season and playoffs at the Palace at Auburn Hills;

Whereas the Detroit Pistons became the first team in NBA Finals history to win games 3, 4, and 5 on their home court since the NBA returned to its current format in 1985;

Whereas in honor of the Detroit Pistons' championship, the Palace of Auburn Hills is officially changing its address to Four Championship Drive; and

Whereas the Detroit Pistons have demonstrated great strength, skill, and perseverance during the 2003-2004 season and have made the entire State of Michigan proud: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Detroit Pistons on winning the 2004 National Basketball Association Championship and recognizes all the players, coaches, support staff, and fans who were instrumental in this achievement; and

(2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Detroit Pistons for appropriate display.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank our friend from Georgia for his patience as we let out our feelings about what happened yesterday in Detroit.

Mr. MILLER. Congratulations to the Pistons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Georgia is recognized for 8 minutes.

REMEMBRANCE OF D-DAY

Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, D-Day happened when I was 12 years old. But I can remember it better than I can remember some things that happened last week. At that time my mother worked at the old Bell Bomber Plant in Marietta, GA, helping build B-29s or, as they were called back then, "flying for-tresses."

Sunday before last, I got to realize a lifelong dream, a visit to Normandy. I got to walk around Omaha and Utah beaches. I peered down those steep slopes at Pointe du Hoc. I sat spell-bound and misty eyed as I listened to the magnificent speech of our President George W. Bush at that Sunday morning ceremony, amid those nearly 10,000 silent crosses and Stars of David, a sacred spot in the history of freedom, if ever there was one.

I got to talk and meet with many of those members who are left of the "greatest generation." One sat in front of me at the ceremony with his two, big, good-looking, husky, raw-boned sons, who looked as if they were a couple of acorns that had not fallen too far from that sturdy oak. He came in with them a little stooped, moving slowly, an infantryman's blue badge and a Bronze Star proudly attached to his shirt. He told me he had come in on the first wave, "loaded down with grenades," and later "I threw them everywhere," he said. Mostly he was quiet, though.

When our President began to speak, he almost reverently slightly bowed his head, obviously lost in the memory of that longest day long ago.

I sat directly behind him and I couldn't see, but I think his eyes were closed. But he was hearing—no, he was feeling each and every touching word. When our President spoke of "the whistles of shells from behind them, the white jets of enemy fire around them," on several occasions, he would nod softly as if saying to himself: That is exactly how it was.

When the President talked of the sound of bullets hitting the steel ramps that were about to fall, he softly but visibly shivered in agreement and then a more vigorous nod, as his old body stiffened and he was once again that young warrior, that soldier of freedom, charging in to face the enemy, "throwing those grenades everywhere," as he had put it earlier.

His two big sons—strong men, you could tell—were in tears, unashamedly taking off their sunglasses and wiping their eyes with the back of their hands. They did not have any Kleenex. They were not exactly the tissue-carrying kind. I couldn't help but wonder, when was the last time these men had shown such emotion. How long had they talked and planned with their dad on this important moment in his life and the life of this country?

He told me he lived in Florida now, and I am terribly ashamed I did not get his name. But I was hesitant, I was reluctant. I felt like I was intruding on a family gathering.

I did talk with many others. I want to mention 2 whose names I did get, 2 who had been among the 100 awarded the prestigious French Legion of Honor: Marvin J. Perrett and Alan F. Reeves.

Coxswain Perrett is from New Orleans and helped Stephen Ambrose put together that great D-Day museum located there. By the way, visit it, if you have a chance. It is magnificent. This coastguardsman had brought 36 men on to Omaha Beach in a landing craft on the first wave, after piloting them around for hours, around and around on that rough, choppy sea, but with those thick fumes and their own vomit gagging them. Something I had never known before, he also took a landing craft into Iwo Jima in the first wave and later Okinawa. That is what coastguardsmen did.

I met Alan F. Reeves who had been part of General Eisenhower's Supreme Allied Command at one time and is still active with those members who are living. He gave me some insight into that great man who had commanded this greatest of all assaults in world history. He was fascinating and inspiring to talk with. He shared something else with me, a beautiful poem written by his son who once visited the cemetery with his father.

I asked Mr. Reeves if I could have a copy of it, and I want to share it with the Senate. By Christopher Bromley Reeves of Delaware:

Le cimetiere de St. Laurent, and all it holds
Awaits the sixtieth recollection of why it is.
Its rows on rows boxed by Austrian black
pines,