

terms of the safety of the people of Alaska. I am sure if that plan has been made, there is a plan to launch missiles from that test site as part of a test, not in response to some accidental launch—and I could not agree more with the Senator from Arizona, if we had missiles in the ground and if we saw a launch come at us, we would use them in the hope that they might work. I have no doubt about that. I would hope they would work. It would be useful to take the time, expend the energy and the money to make sure they work.

Nevertheless, I have no doubt if we thought they would work 1 in 10, 1 in 1,000, or 1 in 2, we would try.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I knew if we stood here long enough, the Senator from Michigan and I would find something on which to agree.

Mr. LEVIN. We agree on many things, and that would surely be one of them. I think we would also agree that it would be nice if we could expect they would work. I think the Senator from Arizona would agree with that. The greater likelihood they would work, the greater good it is for our Nation.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, of course that is true. I would like to propound some unanimous consent requests on behalf of the leader, if there is no other Senator wishing to speak to this matter.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

CONGRATULATING TOM LESHENDOK

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Tom Leshendok of Sparks, NV, on his selection by the Department of Interior for the Meritorious Service Award. It is my honor to recognize the contributions of this dedicated public servant.

Mr. Leshendok's career has spanned more than three decades and several Federal agencies, including the U.S. Geological Survey, the Minerals Management Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Bureau of Land Management. In each of these positions, he has contributed tremendously to the effective and responsible management of our public lands and natural resources.

Mr. Leshendok's work as Deputy State Director of Minerals for the Nevada BLM was particularly important to the economy and welfare of my State. Not only does the BLM administer almost 48 million acres of public land in Nevada, it also oversees the production of 72 percent of our Nation's gold and silver.

As the leader of the BLM's largest mining law administration program, Mr. Leshendok was responsible for the leasing and development of geothermal, oil, and gas resources, the Abandoned Mine Lands program, and hazardous material detection and remediation. His ability to craft effective collaborative approaches to these important issues was a hallmark of his leadership at the Nevada BLM.

Please join me in thanking Tom Leshendok for his strong commitment to public service and congratulating him on his selection for the Department of Interior's Meritorious Service Award.

DAVID A. CHRISTIANSEN—NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate David A. Christiansen, the principal at Huffaker Elementary School in Washoe County, who was selected as Nevada's 2004 National Distinguished Principal.

The National Distinguished Principals Program, jointly sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals, was established in 1984 to honor exemplary elementary and middle schools from each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

This honor highlights the importance of school principals in building excellent schools, and recognizes their accomplishments and leadership in helping children develop a lifelong love of learning.

Mr. Christiansen has been a principal in the Washoe County School District since 1989, and has served at Huffaker Elementary School since July 2001.

His talent and leadership skills speak volumes. For the last 3 years, Huffaker Elementary School has received awards for academic excellence from the Nevada Department of Education. He also has implemented and enhanced programs in art, science, reading, and physical education.

Mr. Christiansen is the third principal from the Washoe County School District to be named a National Distinguished Principal.

I salute David Christiansen for his service and dedication to the children of Washoe County and extend him my best wishes for a successful future.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Madam 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 January 25, 1999, Derek Glacken, 27, was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without the possi-

bility of parole for the fatal 1996 stabbing of a man whom he believed to be gay.

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.

JUNETEENTH

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I rise today to bring attention to the celebration of Juneteenth. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States. This day celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

Throughout our history, African Americans have struggled to achieve equality and freedom. They have endured a legacy of slavery and segregation. Through their belief in the American dream, they fought for equal rights and taught the Nation to look past outward appearances and judge a person by their character. Their undying quest to achieve freedom and equality is why I am here today: To honor the day where slaves in some southern States learned of their emancipation.

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger went to Texas to proclaim emancipation to Texas slaves. This was the first time that slaves in Texas and other surrounding States found out about their emancipation. He stated, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

Following emancipation, ex-slaves entered freedom under the most difficult conditions, penniless and homeless with only the clothes on their back. They began to migrate to the north and to southern States like Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma in search of better lives and a better future for their families. The descendants of these former slaves passed down a tradition of celebrating the emancipation announcement at the end of June because of its significance for African Americans. The term "Juneteenth" reflects the inability of history to identify the exact date all slaves became free in this country. However, the importance of the event is memorialized in this celebration and is often observed as a time to remember the past and look to the future.

The first Juneteenth celebrations were political rallies used to teach freedmen about voting. Cakewalks,

baseball games, contests and parades would come to be identified as traditional parts of the celebration as well. However, from the very beginning food, family and friends played central roles in these remembrances.

Many African Americans will continue this celebration through various activities in their local communities. I was honored to join Arkansans in celebrating Juneteenth in Little Rock this past weekend, and I challenge all Americans to join me in celebrating the rich history and countless contributions African Americans have made in our country, to remember the struggles for dignity and racial equality in America and to commit to fighting for equality in our schools, workplaces and in our communities.

THE BOSTON CELTICS—THE "HEROES AMONG US" AWARDS

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, the Boston Celtics are heroes on the basketball court, and they are heroes off the court as well. In 1997, they established the "Heroes Among Us" Awards to honor outstanding persons in the area who have had an especially significant impact on the lives of others. The award pays tribute to men and women who have made a difference because of their unselfish commitment to their community. Their extraordinary achievements take place in a wide variety of fields, and are made by persons of all ages and in all walks of life.

At each home game during the basketball season, the Celtics and their fans pay tribute to one of the honorees in a special presentation on the basketball court. So far, over 300 persons have received the "Heroes Among Us" award.

All of us in the Kennedy family are proud that one of this year's awards was made to my nephew Tim Shriver. He was honored for his leadership of the Special Olympics, which provides training in sports and opportunities to participate in competitive sports for children and adults with mental retardation in many nations throughout the world. Tim was honored in Boston last December during a Celtics game against the Utah Jazz, and several Special Olympics athletes were part of the ceremony on center court.

Massachusetts is proud of the Celtics and proud of this successful and inspiring awards program, which has become one of the most respected such initiatives in the Nation. I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the names of the honorees for the 2003–2004 season.

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

Frank Kilroy (Danvers), Karen Butler and Tom Lee (Brockton), Atala Esquillin (Lynn), Karen, Bob and Alex Bean (Shrewsbury), Mary Soo Hoo (Boston), Caitlin Gorski (Hopkinton), Chris Constantino (Plymouth), Nadine Burgeson (Lakeville), Kellie Burgeson Surdis (Lakeville), Joe Lawless

(Lynnfield), Dr. Arnold Scheller (Milton), Jackie Jenkins-Scott (Roxbury), Honorable Leslie Harris (Dorchester), Anne Norton (Boston), Lieutenant Paul D. Lucas (Boston), Firefighter Dorian Jenkins (Boston);

Firefighter Vincent Dimino (Boston), Cory Arno (Central Falls, RI), Mel Rubin (Chestnut Hill), Ryan and Hattie Wilkinson (Medfield), Mason Hedberg (North Attleboro), Myra Fox (Newton), Margela Olivier-Galette (Randolph), Lee and Allison Weissman (Springfield), Jesus Gerena (Jamaica Plain), Veryl Anderson (North Andover), Bob Michalczyk (Lowell), George Kouloheras (Lowell), Michael Danziger (Lincoln), Melinda Pellerin-Duck (Springfield), State Trooper Kevin Fogwill (Brookfield), Tony DeBlois (Randolph);

Matt Haymer (Andover), Brian, Calvin and David Owino (Framingham), Debby Sabin Kanzer (Lincoln), Daniel Gonzalez (Cambridge), David Goodfellow (Lakeville), Linda Brooks (Framingham), Greg deZarn-O'Hare (East Kingston, NH), Peter Bruce (South Dartmouth), Brendan McDonough (Dorchester), Ron Bielicki (Waltham), Tim Shriver (Washington, DC), Charity Bell (Jamaica Plain), Alex Cortes (Springfield), George Giddings (Yonkers, NY);

Charles Diggs (Norwood), Harvey Sanford (Boston), Willis Saunders (Boston), Boston Police Sergeant John Danilecki (Boston), Boston Police Officer Adam Gill (Boston), Boston Police Officer Michael Mylett (Boston), Boston Police Officer Michael Doyle (Boston), Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Police Officer James St. Croix (Boston), Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Police Officer Richard Lum (Boston), Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Police Officer Chi Keung (Boston).

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

KENTUCKY MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I rise to honor and pay tribute to the Kentucky Mountain Development Corporation, KMHDC, for receiving one of the Fannie Mae Foundation's 6 Maxwell Awards for Excellence.

The Maxwell Awards of Excellence program showcases the outstanding work of nonprofit organizations in developing and maintaining housing for low-income Americans. Each year the award is given to only 6 projects nationwide. The Kentucky Mountain Development Corporation is a church-related nonprofit established in 1973, that provides safe, decent, affordable homes for low-income families in Southeastern Kentucky. The staff of nearly 30 works with volunteers to build and repair houses for low-income families and provide financing for families with income too low to qualify for any other housing assistance. KMHDC originates and services low-interest loans and provides jobs and promotes economic development through housing production in rural Appalachia.

The Kentucky Mountain Development Corporation is an outstanding example of how Kentuckians use their entrepreneurial talent, drive, and vision to create opportunities not just for themselves, but for others. In the last 30 years, they have provided 600 homes

for low-income families and it has completed more than 400 home repairs to substandard owner occupied units.

Southeastern Kentucky is fortunate to have the Kentucky Mountain Development Corporation as a home-based business. I appreciate their loyalty to Kentucky and their community. The company is a shining example of leadership, hard work, and compassion. They are an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth.

Congratulations, Kentucky Mountain Development Corporation. You are Kentucky at its finest.●

WEST VIRGINIA DAY

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the beautiful State which I am proud to call my home, West Virginia. Yesterday, June 20, was truly a day to celebrate our great State. One hundred and forty one years ago, West Virginia became the 35th State to join our Nation.

West Virginia's travel slogan "Wild and Wonderful" captures the essence of West Virginia's terrain. In reference to the spirit of our landscape abundant with roaming rivers and dense forests, the early settlers created the state motto: "Mountaineers are always free." To this day, West Virginia remains known for its breathtaking natural beauty. It is a growing destination for people from around the world interested in hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, white water rafting, skiing, golf, and many other outdoor activities which take advantage of the natural beauty of the West Virginia hills.

Visitors to the State are often impressed by our sweeping vistas, mountainous terrain, and undisturbed wilderness. Much of our beauty is preserved for the ages in several world class National and State Parks.

While the landscape of the Mountain State is inspiring, it is the people of West Virginia who truly encapsulate the majesty and spirit of our State. Over the last 141 years, many different people have called West Virginia home. Native Americans came here for our rich hunting grounds. Civil War soldiers fought many battles on our land, diverse waves of immigrants worked in our thriving industries of glass, coal, steel, wood products, oil and the railroad. We have come so far over the last 141 years, and yet we maintain the same sense of pride in our culture, people, and rolling West Virginia hills.

These historical influences helped to diversify our population and create the vibrant culture we enjoy today. West Virginia culture is famous for its pottery, glass, history, stories, and in particular, its music. This music, including bluegrass, ballads and gospel songs, has a special tie to our culture and our people, telling of our history and our industry. Aside from what we produce, it is who we are that makes West Virginia a place of which to be proud. We