

these two genuine patriots. I admire the work they do. They set a standard for the rest of us. I admire, especially, the manner with which they have managed this legislation. This has been one of the toughest jobs we have had in a long time. They have done it admirably. We owe them a debt of gratitude, not only for the work done but for the manner with which they have done it. I congratulate them both.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the distinguished minority leader very much for his words.

Mr. FRIST. I, too, congratulate both of the managers. It has been a long month. It has been 16 days, but since March 17 we actually started the bill. There was a lot in the background people did not see in terms of progress being made, setbacks along the way and negotiations and discussions, both inside each caucus as well as debate on the floor. It is a real privilege to be the leader of both managers and of both caucuses, working together to produce a bill that a few minutes ago we passed, a bill we can all be very proud of. I appreciate everyone's cooperation, participation, diligence, and focus throughout.

Mr. WARNER. I thank our distinguished majority leader, truly a very gracious soul and of pure heart.

Mr. FRIST. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

CHANGE OF VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my vote on amendment No. 3352 to S. 2400, rollcall No. 129, be changed to yea. I understand this will not change the outcome of the vote.

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

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I today 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.

In March 1999 in Decatur, IL, a university student was beaten by three men who allegedly made anti-gay remarks.

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. By passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HONORING USCG COMMANDER TIMOTHY ALAN COOK

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Commander Timothy Alan Cook for his service to the United States Senate and his continued service to our country in the United States Coast Guard.

Commander Cook has been detailed to be the Coast Guard Liaison to the United States Senate since July 2001, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with him over the past 3 years. In my leadership roles on the Transportation and Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittees, my staff and I have often relied on Commander Cook's tremendous grasp on the inner-workings of both the Coast Guard and the Senate.

Commander Cook began his Senate career in 1997 as the Coast Guard Fellow to the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee. However, his Coast Guard career began more than a decade earlier as a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Then-Ensign Cook's first tour was as Deck Watch Officer aboard the Medium Endurance Cutter DAUNTLESS (WMEC 624) then stationed in Miami Beach, FL. In 1988 he became Executive Officer of the Fast Patrol Boat MANITOU (WPB 1302) also stationed in Miami Beach, FL.

He was selected for the Coast Guard Academy Postgraduate Instructor Program in 1990 and attended Duke University where he received his Master of Arts degree in Public Policy. CDR Cook taught U.S. History and American Government in the Coast Guard Academy Humanities Department from 1992 to 1995. During this period he also qualified as Deck Watch Officer on the Coast Guard Tall Ship EAGLE (WIX 327).

In 1995 he assumed Command of the Fast Patrol Boat MAUI (WPB 1304) stationed in Miami Beach, FL. During this time he also completed a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from Brown University.

Then, following his service at the Senate Commerce Committee, Commander Cook became Executive Officer of the Medium Endurance Cutter BEAR (WMEC 901) at the mid-point of its 106-day Mediterranean cruise. During his

tour he completed numerous patrols in the Caribbean conducting the Coast Guard law enforcement and search and rescue missions.

This week, Commander Cook will leave his post as the Coast Guard's Senate Liaison. He will be missed in the United States Senate, but the Coast Guard needs his expertise on the Deepwater Acquisition Program.

It has been my pleasure to work with Commander Cook. On behalf of the Senators and staff who have also been fortunate to work with him, I wish Commander Cook, his wife Nancy and their two sons, Evan and Joel, the best in all of their future endeavors.

RHODE ISLAND VETERANS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate passed legislation, H.R. 3942, earlier this month to redesignate the U.S. Post Office in Middletown the "Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building," and I thank Congressman PATRICK KENNEDY for introducing this important legislation in the House of Representatives. I recognize the important contributions and sacrifices that our military veterans have made for our country. The celebration of the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion at Normandy this month again highlighted the great sacrifices that our brave soldiers have made, and continue to make today in Afghanistan, Iraq and throughout the world. I am proud to support naming the U.S. Post Office in Middletown in their honor.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SAFETY ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to note the House passage today of the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, H.R. 218, by voice vote. This action has been a long time in coming. Representative RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM has been tirelessly working for over a decade to push this legislation and I commend him for his dedication to making our communities safer and providing better protection for our law enforcement personnel. I ask that the Senate follow suit and quickly take up and pass the House bill.

Law enforcement officers are never "off duty." They are dedicated public servants trained to uphold the law and keep the peace. To enable law enforcement officers nationwide to be prepared to answer a call to duty no matter where, when or in what form it comes, I am proud to join Senator CAMPBELL—my good friend and a knowledgeable Senate leader on law enforcement issues—and 69 other cosponsors, including Judiciary Chairman HATCH, Democratic Leader DASCHLE, Assistant Democratic Leader REID, Majority Leader FRIST and Assistant Majority Leader MCCONNELL, on the Senate version of the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, S. 253,

which was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee in March 2003 by a vote of 18 to 1. Both H.R. 218 and S. 253 will permit off-duty and retired law enforcement officers to carry a firearm and be prepared to assist in dangerous situations.

These bills are strongly supported by the Fraternal Order of Police, FOP; the National Association of Police Organizations, NAPO; the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, FLEOA; the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, IBPO; the Law Enforcement Alliance of America; and the National Law Enforcement Council.

I was honored to work closely on this measure with the former FOP national president, Lieutenant Steve Young, whose death last year was a sad loss for us all. Steve was dedicated to this legislation because he understood the importance of having law enforcement officers across the Nation armed and prepared whenever and wherever threats to our public safety arise. I have continued my close work with the FOP and current national president, Major Chuck Canterbury, to make this legislation law.

Community policing and the outstanding work of so many law enforcement officers play a vital role in our crime control efforts. Unfortunately, during the past few years the downward trend in violent crime ended and violent crime rates have turned upward. The FBI has reported that crime rose slightly in the first half of 2002, including a 2.3 percent increase in murders. The preliminary numbers for 2002 follow an increase in crime in 2001 by 2.1 percent, compared with the year before.

There are more than 740,000 sworn law enforcement officers currently serving in the United States. Since the first recorded police death in 1792, there have been more than 17,200 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Over 1,700 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty over the last decade, an average of 170 deaths per year. Roughly 5 percent of officers who die are killed while taking law enforcement action in an off-duty capacity. On average, more than 62,000 law enforcement officers are assaulted annually.

The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act creates a mechanism by which qualified active-duty law enforcement officers would be permitted to travel interstate with a firearm, subject to certain limitations, provided that officers are carrying their official badges and photographic identification. An active-duty officer may carry a concealed firearm under this measure if he or she is authorized to engage in or supervise any violation of law; is authorized to use a firearm by the agency, meets agency standards to regularly use a firearm; and is not prohibited from carrying by Federal, State or local law. This measure would not interfere with any officer's right to carry a concealed firearm on private or government prop-

erty while on duty or on official business.

Off-duty and retired officers should also be permitted to carry their firearms across State and other jurisdictional lines, at no cost to taxpayers, in order to better serve and protect our communities. H.R. 218 would permit qualified law enforcement officers and qualified retired law enforcement officers across the Nation to carry concealed firearms in most situations. It preserves any State law that restricts concealed firearms on private property and any State law that restricts the possession of a firearm on State or local government property.

To qualify for the measure's exemptions to permit a qualified off-duty law enforcement officer to carry a concealed firearm, notwithstanding the law of the State or political subdivision of the State, he or she must have authority to use a firearm by the law enforcement agency where he or she works; not be subject to any disciplinary action; satisfy every standard of the agency to regularly use a firearm; not be prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm; and carry a photo identification issued by the agency. The bill preserves any State law that restricts concealed firearms on private property, and any State law that restricts the possession of a firearm on State or local government property or park.

For a retired law enforcement officer to qualify for exemption from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed firearms, he or she must have retired in good standing; have been qualified by the agency to carry or use a firearm; have been employed at least 15 years as a law enforcement officer unless forced to retire due to a service-connected disability; have a non-forfeitable right to retirement plan benefits of the law enforcement agency; meet the same State firearms training and qualifications as an active officer; not be prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm; and be carrying a photo identification issued by the agency. Preserved would be any State law that permits restrictions of concealed firearms on private property, as well as any State law that restricts the possession of a firearm on State or local government property or park.

Last week, during the House Judiciary Committee markup of H.R. 218, amendments were accepted to bar officers or retired police from carrying arms in other jurisdictions if they are under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance, and to require retired police to have proof they received arms training in the previous year before being permitted to carry concealed weapons. The bill was then reported out of committee by a vote of 23 to 9. The bill was passed overwhelmingly by the House earlier today by voice vote.

Convicted criminals often have long and exacting memories. A law enforcement officer is a target in uniform and

out, active or retired, on duty or off duty. The bipartisan Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act is designed to establish national measures of uniformity and consistency to permit trained and certified on-duty, off-duty, or retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms in most situations so that they may respond immediately to crimes across State and other jurisdictional lines, as well as to protect themselves and their families from vindictive criminals.

I look forward to the Senate approving this bipartisan, commonsense measure today to make our communities safer and to better protect law enforcement officers and their families.

EXEMPTION FROM TRUST REFORM REORGANIZATION

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 2523, a bill to exempt the Great Plains Region and Rocky Mountain Region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, BIA, from trust reform reorganization plans. I am happy to be an original cosponsor of this bill with my friend and colleague Senator TOM DASCHLE.

S. 2523 would exempt the BIA's Great Plains Region and the Rocky Mountain Region from the Department of the Interior's trust reform reorganization proposal, excluding efforts to reform Indian probate and address land consolidation, pending the submission of alternative agency-specific reorganization plans. The bill would direct that any funds appropriated to accomplish trust reform at the agency level in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains Regions could be expended only under plans developed by local tribes in cooperation with and with the approval of the Department of the Interior. The bill authorizes \$200,000 for the Great Plains Region and \$200,000 for the Rocky Mountain Region to be used for the development of agency-specific reorganization plans.

The bill is an alternative to the Department of the Interior's "To-Be" trust reorganization plan. The BIA and the Office of Special Trustee, OSI, is in a state of ongoing reengineering of their trust management processes since the Department issued a new Department Manual in April, 2003. Since November, 2003, the Department has conducted informational meeting regarding its "To-Be" project, which would reengineer current fiduciary trust business process. This "To-Be" plan is unacceptable to our tribes. Simply, the administration's proposed changes to the way tribes receive trust services do not fit the needs of our area.

Specifically, our tribes require frequent land appraisals due to our large land base. Currently there is only one appraiser for the entire Great Plains Region. Under a proposed plan, money that would be spent hiring "trust officers" would be utilized by hiring appraisers at each agency on each reservation. Furthermore, as a region we