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Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the full text of the article in the RECORD.

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

THE AMERICA I LOVE

(By Elie Wiesel)

Born in Sighet, Transylvania (Romania), Elie Wiesel became a U.S. citizen in 1963. Since then, Wiesel—a Holocaust survivor, Boston University professor and the author of more than 40 books—has become one of our nation's most honored citizens. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can bestow on a civilian. In 1992, President George Bush recognized Wiesel with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Wiesel, who has been an outspoken advocate of human rights around the world, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986.

The day I received American citizenship was a turning point in my life. I had ceased to be stateless. Until then, unprotected by any government and unwanted by any society, the Jew in me was overcome by a feeling of pride mixed with gratitude.

From that day on, I felt privileged to belong to a country which, for two centuries, has stood as a living symbol of all that is charitable and decent to victims of injustice everywhere—a country in which every person is entitled to dream of happiness, peace and liberty; where those who have are taught to give back.

In America, compassion for the refugee and respect for the other still have biblical connotations.

Grandiloquent words used for public oratory? Even now, as America is in the midst of puzzling uncertainty and understandable introspection because of tragic events in Iraq, these words reflect my personal belief. For I cannot forget another day that remains alive in my memory: April 11, 1945.

That day I encountered the first American soldiers in the Buchenwald concentration camp. I remember them well. Bewildered, disbelieving, they walked around the place, hell on earth, where our destiny had been played out. They looked at us, just liberated, and did not know what to do or say. Survivors snatched from the dark throes of death, we were empty of all hope—too weak, too emaciated to hug them or even speak to them. Like lost children, the American soldiers wept and wept with rage and sadness. And we received their tears as if they were heartrending offerings from a wounded and generous humanity.

Ever since that encounter, I cannot repress my emotion before the flag and the uni-

form—anything that represents American heroism in battle. That is especially true on July Fourth. I reread the Declaration of Independence, a document sanctified by the passion of a nation's thirst for justice and sovereignty, forever admiring both its moral content and majestic intonation. Opposition to oppression in all its forms, defense of all human liberties, celebration of what is right is social intercourse: All this and much more is in that text, which today has special meaning.

Granted, U.S. history has gone through severe trials, of which anti-black racism was the most scandalous and depressing. I happened to witness it in the late Fifties, as I traveled through the South. What did I feel? Shame. Yes, shame for being white. What made it worse was the realization that, at that time, racism was the law, thus making the law itself immoral and unjust.

Still, my generation was lucky to see the downfall of prejudice in many of its forms. True, it took much pain and protest for that law to be changed, but it was. Today, while fanatically stubborn racists are still around, some of them vocal, racism as such has vanished from the American scene. That is true of anti-Semitism too. Jew-haters still exist here and there, but organized anti-Semitism does not—unlike in Europe, where it has been growing with disturbing speed.

As a great power, America has always seemed concerned with other people's welfare, especially in Europe. Twice in the 20th century, it saved the "Old World" from dictatorship and tyranny.

America understands that a nation is great not because its economy is flourishing or its army is invincible but because its ideals are loftier. Hence America's desire to help those who have lost their freedom to conquer it again. America's credo might read as follows: For an individual, as for a nation, to be free is an admirable duty—but to help others become free is even more admirable.

Some skeptics may object: But what about Vietnam? And Cambodia? And the support some administrations gave to corrupt regimes in Africa or the Middle East? And the occupation of Iraq? Did we go wrong—and if so, where?

And what are we to make of the despicable, abominable "interrogation methods" used on Iraqi prisoners of war by a few soldiers (but even a few are too many) in Iraqi military prisons?

Well, one could say that no nation is composed of saints alone. None is sheltered from mistakes or misdeeds. All have their Cain and Abel. It takes vision and courage to undergo serious soul-searching and to favor moral conscience over political expediency. And America, in extreme situations, is endowed with both. America is always ready to learn from its mishaps. Self-criticism remains its second nature.

Not surprising, some Europeans do not share such views. In extreme left-wing political and intellectual circles, suspicion and distrust toward America is the order of the day. They deride America's motives for its military interventions, particularly in Iraq. They say: It's just money. As if America went to war only to please the oil-rich capitalists.

They are wrong. America went to war to liberate a population too long subjected to terror and death.

We see in newspapers and magazines and on television screens, the mass graves and torture chambers imposed by Saddam Hussein and his accomplices. One cannot but feel grateful to the young Americans who leave their families, some to lose their lives, in order to bring to Iraq the first rays of hope—without which no people can imagine the happiness of welcoming freedom.

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111TH VIBORG DANISH DAYS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the upcoming Danish Days Festival in Viborg, SD. This annual event attracts hundreds of people to the small South Dakota town to celebrate the area's rich Danish history. I especially applaud the Danish Days planning committee and the Danish Heritage Association for their work to make this event a success.

Denmark-native Peter Larsen Christensen first settled near Viborg in 1864, establishing a small general store on his homestead. Southwestern Railroad completed a line connecting Sioux Falls and Yankton in 1893, which passed through the present-day Viborg. The community incorporated on August 25, 1893, shortly after the railroad's arrival, and quickly grew into a bustling Danish community on the new South Dakota prairie.

Today, this town of 800 remains a vibrant community. In a time when small town stores continue to close, Viborg's Main Street features full storefronts offering a variety of services, including a pharmacy, grocery store and bank. The city's industrial park also continues to grow. Viborg's strong business community exists because of the town's strong foundation of community, established more than 100 years ago.

Each year, the Danish Days Festival provides Viborg residents, past and present, with an opportunity to celebrate the community's proud heritage. The event will feature a leadership luncheon for Turner County's public servants and an honoring reception for the decedents of 2004 Danish Days honorees, C.J. and Cena Glood. A parade, community barbecue, car show, and fireworks display are also planned.

The C.J. and Cena Glood family opened Viborg's first hardware and implement store shortly after the community was incorporated, and their decedents have continued to impact Viborg's prosperity through proud leadership. Most prominently, their eldest son, Royal, served 10 years in South Dakota State Legislature, advocating for the interests of Turner County.

Their daughter, Dagmar, maintained a medical practice in Viborg for nearly 20 years and made numerous contributions to the community. The family has had a substantial impact on Viborg's development and are worthy honorees.

Finally, the Danish Heritage Association will unveil Viborg's first Danish heritage museum during the festivities.

heritage museum during the festivities. The Association has dedicated hours of volunteer time and labor to "preserving yesterday and today for tomorrow," and I am pleased that artifacts of Viborg's history will be preserved in this fashion.

South Dakota communities each have their own unique history. I am proud to recognize Viborg's ongoing work to preserve its heritage while building toward the future.

HONORING SUE POWERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I rise to remember Sue Powers, a woman who devoted her last years to honoring the memory of cold-war veterans, and the widow of famed U-2 pilot Gary Powers.

When the United States salutes its war heroes, those who fought the cold war are often overlooked. Sue Powers, who died last month in Las Vegas, worked tirelessly to change that, and to preserve this important chapter of our history.

Mrs. Powers served as a volunteer at the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas, and was a founding member of the Cold War Museum.

"She was as much of a cold-war warrior as her husband and believed in him and what he did through the events in the Soviet Union" said Troy Wade, chairman of the Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation.

Mrs. Powers, born Claudia Edwards, grew up in Warrenton, VA., and Washington, DC. After graduating from Anacostia High School, she went to work for the Central Intelligence Agency as a psychometrist.

In 1962 she met Francis Gary Powers, a famed U-2 pilot. Two years earlier in 1960, Powers had been shot down and taken as a prisoner of war while flying his U-2 spy plane over the Soviet Union.

Gary and Sue met just after Gary's return from Russia. He literally bumped into her when he walked around a corner near their offices. According to their son Gary Jr., there was spilled coffee, which led to a cup of coffee, which led to dinner, which led to romance and marriage.

Sue left the CIA and the couple was married in 1963. After their marriage they moved to Sun Valley, CA, where Gary worked as a pilot first for Lockheed then for KNBC television. They worked together to preserve the memories of those people who sacrificed their lives during the cold war. Sue was left to carry on their cold-war crusade alone after Gary died in a helicopter crash in 1977 while piloting for KNBC.

After her husband's death Mrs. Powers moved to Los Angeles and eventually to Las Vegas. She devoted the rest of her life to preserving the legacy of her husband and other heroes of the cold war. She was honorary chairwoman of the Silent Heroes of the Cold War National Memorial Committee.

As a citizen of Nevada, Mrs. Powers worked especially hard to preserve Ne-

vada cold war history. Her husband was trained at Area 51, a military facility in Nevada, and Mrs. Powers was well aware of the many other contributions that Nevadans made during the cold war.

Many Government personnel were trained at Area 51, Nellis Air Force Base, or the Naval Air Station in Fallon. Nevada was also crucial to the cold-war effort because it was home to intercontinental ballistic missiles, fight training centers, nuclear weapons test sites, and strategic tactical resources.

Mrs. Powers appreciated the importance of these contributions and was diligent in her efforts to ensure that the Silver State's role in the cold war was not forgotten.

Sue never swayed in her loyalty to cold-war veterans or her determination to ensure their sacrifices were not forgotten. For this, she herself is a hero. It is only fitting that she will be buried on July 13 in Arlington National Cemetery, along with her beloved husband.

PASSAGE OF THE AGOA ACCELERATION ACT OF 2004

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to praise the Senate for the passage of the African Growth and Opportunity Acceleration Act of 2004 which was completed before we adjourned for the Fourth of July recess. The House of Representatives passed the legislation on June 14, 2004, and it was imperative the Senate quickly follow suit.

The passage of AGOA is great news for Africa. Since AGOA was first enacted in 2000, investment in Africa is up, and trade from Africa is up. Because of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, many African families can now feed their children. For the first time there is a new sense of hope in many countries. Many provisions of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act were set to expire this year. This created an environment of uncertainty, which as leading to investment flight and lost opportunities. Passage of this bill will help people in Africa reap the full benefits of the program.

It is encouraging that this bill received such strong bipartisan support in the House and Senate. Trade can be a powerful tool of growth, and I am pleased that the majority of my colleagues share this view.

Although passage of this bill is a great step forward, there is still a lot of work to be done. For example, the United States is currently negotiating a free trade agreement with members of the Southern African Customs Union. This will include the nations of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Namibia. Completion of this agreement will help foster trade and investment in the region, which could lead to a new period of sustained economic growth.

For trade to work, it has to be two-way street. Foreign aid and preference programs are always a short-term an-

swer. For long-term growth, Africans must work hand-in-hand with the United States to open markets both in Africa and around the world. History proves that the most economically advanced nations are those that embrace free trade and free markets. Too often, unduly high tariff barriers in developing countries hinder the trade and investment that is so vital to economic growth. I want to help create a climate of sustained prosperity in Africa, so we can eliminate poverty and provide hope for a better future. Passage of this bill is a good first step. I hope we can continue our work with the African people to help advance both our economies and build toward a brighter, more prosperous future.

I would now like to take a minute and thank my staff who helped bring this legislation into realization. First and foremost is my staff director and chief counsel, Kolan Davis, for his leadership and loyalty. I would like to thank Everett Eissenstat, my chief international trade counsel, for his hard work as well as that of the rest of my trade team, including Stephen Schaefer, David Johanson, Zach Paulsen and Dan Shepherdson. I must not forget to mention Carrie Clark—now Carrie Clark-Philips—who competently covered this issue for me before leaving the Committee. And finally, I want to thank the ranking member on the Finance Committee, Senator BAUCUS, and his able trade staff of Tim Punke, Brian Pomper, Shara Aranoff, Sara Andrews, John Gilliland and Pascal Niedermann, for the work they did in getting this bill compelled.

I look forward to seeing the President sign this legislation into law quickly, so we can continue to work with the African nations in furthering economic progress. I thank the Senate for the bipartisan nature extended in the passage of this important legislation.

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 January 2, 1993, police found Chrissey Johnson naked, with her feet tied together. She had been stabbed approximately 15 times and thrown from the second floor of her apartment. The disturbing nature of the murder suggested to police that Johnson was targeted for being transgendered.

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