

Petty Officer Knott will be remembered as a proud individual dedicated to serving his country. He joined the U.S. Navy in 2001 after graduating from Grand Island Senior High School and became a Navy Seabee so he could learn specialty welding and help others. Petty Officer Knott spent about 9 months in Iraq last year and was recently redeployed in August. He had just been promoted and was overseeing a three-person unit.

Petty Officer Knott is survived by his parents Randy Knott of Grand Island and Vera Thorpe of Hastings; step-mother, Teri Knott of Grand Island; step-father Steve Thorpe of Hastings; brothers William and Tim of Seward; sister Angela of Lincoln; and grandparents Lyle and Arlene Knott and Masel Anderson, all of Grand Island. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. America is proud of Eric Knott's service and mourns his loss.

For his service, bravery, and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring Petty Officer 3rd Class Eric Knott.

#### TRIBUTE TO INDIANAPOLIS POLICE OFFICER TIMOTHY LAIRD

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the remarkable life of Timothy "Jake" Laird, an Indianapolis police officer who was killed in the line of duty on August 18, 2004 by a gunman terrorizing an Indianapolis neighborhood.

During the early morning of August 18, Officer Laird left his own patrol area to come to the aid of fellow police officers in a nearby neighborhood who were facing a dangerous man armed with multiple assault weapons. Laird, a 4-year veteran of the Indianapolis Police Department, went out of his way to protect the citizens of Indianapolis by knowingly putting himself in danger, a selfless act that would cost him his life. Officer Laird, 31 years old, was the first Indianapolis police officer to die in the line of duty in 16 years.

Officer Laird graduated from Warren Central High School in 1991. After graduating from high school, he joined the Marines and married his high school sweetheart, Jennifer Lyn Reno, in 1992. Officer Laird served 8 years in the Marines before joining the Indianapolis Police Department in 2000, where he quickly distinguished himself as a confident, hardworking policeman who could be counted on by his fellow officers.

During his time with the Indianapolis Police Department, Officer Laird received two letters of commendation, though these respected symbols of official praise pale in comparison to the words his family and fellow officers used to describe his work. Those who knew him remember Officer Laird as a perfectionist who demanded the most of himself on the job but was the first to laugh at himself during lighter moments. He was known as the kind of of-

ficer that others wanted with them on patrol, and his willingness to put his life in danger to help another officer is the ultimate proof of the kind of man he was.

Officer Laird was a devoted family man who relished his time with loved ones. He leaves behind his wife, Jennifer; his daughter, Kaylee; his father, Tim Althouse; and his stepmother, Barb; his mother and stepfather, Debbie and Michael Laird; his two brothers, one sister and two step-brothers.

In the wake of his death, friends, neighbors and fellow officers came together to praise Officer Laird's bravery, selflessness and love for his family. According to his father, Jake had wanted to be a police officer ever since he was a little boy. Officer Laird was a role model not only for his family, but for all who knew him and whose lives he touched. He dedicated his life to the noblest of causes: his family, his job and keeping others safe. May his daughter grow up knowing that her father was a brave, hard-working and loving man.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Timothy "Jake" Laird into the United States CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. As Officer Laird rests with God in eternal peace, let us never forget the courage and sacrifice he displayed when he laid down his life on August 18, 2004.

#### 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.

Scotty Joe Weaver, an 18-year-old gay Alabama man was beaten, stabbed, and his body burned in woods near his mobile home on July 18, 2004. Robert Porter, 18, Christopher Ryan Gaines, 20, and Gaines' girlfriend, Nichole Kelsay have been charged with the July 18 killing, which police believe was motivated by hate.

I believe that the 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.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in support of this request for additional disaster assistance in the wake of Hurricanes Charley and Frances, and the devastation they have brought on the State of Florida. I, along with my Nebraska constituents, send our thoughts and prayers to those in Florida dealing with the physical and emotional impact of these hurricanes.

In Nebraska, we sympathize with the victims of natural disasters, whether they be caused by hurricanes, floods, or tornadoes. Presently, my State is facing its fifth straight year of record drought, which as you know has a damaging effect on the agricultural industry, as well the mainstreet of every Nebraska community. Multiple years of drought have cost our Nation billions of dollars in economic losses and has many farmers wondering whether they will be able to carry on. They are not in this position because of poor planning or some unfortunate weather incident but rather as the result of a continuous natural disaster that once again has turned upside down the hopes and work that went into planting this spring.

This drought is a disaster—it is been a disaster for agriculture and a disaster for rural communities, which depend so much on agriculture. I think that going home over the August recess certainly gave all of us from States hit by drought even more reason to seek assistance. I do not want to detract from the importance of sending disaster assistance to those in Florida. However, I believe that my colleagues must join me in casting a greater spotlight on the importance of helping our Nation's farmers and ranchers recover from the impacts of the current drought.

Therefore, I would like to join the Senator from South Dakota in calling on the President and the Congress to support funding for drought aid for our farmers and ranchers, and to fully fund the crop and livestock disaster programs so critical to Nebraska's farmers and ranchers.

A drought relief package is of the utmost importance to farmers and ranchers in Nebraska and across all those rural America parts suffering from this natural disaster. It will make the difference between keeping their farms or being forced out of agriculture—to the detriment of all of us who depend on the "breadbasket of the world." We must seek this assistance in order to ensure that our rural communities are not allowed to wither under the worst conditions in over half of a century.

I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in supporting drought assistance this year. Like any other natural disaster, this drought has hurt the very livelihoods of good, hardworking people who struggle every day to stay afloat even under normal conditions. It is imperative that we respond to this crisis in rural America.

I thank my colleagues for this opportunity to address an issue of great importance to my State.

#### PASSAGE OF U.S.-AUSTRALIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, recently the Senate passed S. 2610, the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act. The U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement, which will be implemented by this legislation, will provide many benefits to

U.S. manufacturers and agricultural producers. U.S. consumers will clearly gain from it as well. This agreement will also further cement our friendship with Australia, a long-time ally and our strong partner in the war on terrorism.

The U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement is an example of the importance of Trade Promotion Authority. It has been almost 2 years since Trade Promotion Authority was signed into law as part of the trade act of 2002. During this time, the United States has signed free trade agreements with Chile, Singapore, and now Australia. The implementing bills for each of these agreements passed the Congress with strong support, so Congress clearly recognizes the benefits of trade promotion authority.

Many people worked hard to see that this vote became a reality. First and foremost, this would not have happened without the leadership of President George W. Bush. President Bush is committed to building the U.S. economy by opening the world's markets to U.S. goods and services, and the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement is just the latest of the trade accomplishments he has made possible.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick deserves strong commendation for his efforts in negotiating this agreement. His commitment to expanding U.S. trade opportunities is steadfast.

I would also like to thank chief U.S. agricultural negotiator Allen Johnson for his willingness not only to listen, but also to act, upon the concerns of U.S. farmers and ranchers during the negotiations. Many others at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative deserve my thanks as well.

I commend my colleagues on the Finance Committee for their interest in seeing that the agreement was concluded and that the implementing bill was passed. I would like to extend a special thanks to the ranking member of the Committee, Mr. BAUCUS. We have worked together over the years to expand trade to the benefit of U.S. workers, farmers, and consumers, and I am pleased with the outcome of our current efforts with the passage of this implementing bill.

My staff on the Finance Committee has worked diligently over the past weeks on the implementing bill and other materials connected with it. My goal was to have this legislation passed prior to the August recess, and they were instrumental in making this happen. Moreover, my Finance Committee staff was engaged in consultations with officials from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative throughout the negotiations, which began way back in March 2003, so this has been a long process for them. I greatly appreciate their hard work.

My Chief Counsel and Staff Director, Kolan Davis, deserves recognition. His talent in managing many legislative issues, including trade, is readily apparent.

The Chief International Trade Counsel of the Committee, Everett Eissenstat, worked tirelessly to see that the passage of this legislation would actually occur, so today's vote is yet another testament to his skills. I would also like to thank the rest of my trade staff—David Johanson, Stephen Schaefer, Dan Shepherdson, and Zach Paulsen—for all of their hard work and dedication to the Finance Committee's work and to the people of Iowa.

Mr. BAUCUS's Finance Committee staff also deserves recognition. Russ Sullivan and Bill Dauster, respectively staff director and deputy staff director of Mr. BAUCUS's Finance Committee staff, worked well with my staff throughout the process.

I also appreciate the efforts of Tom Punke—Mr. BAUCUS's chief international trade counsel—and Sara Andrews, Shara Aranoff, John Gilliland, Pascal Niedermann, and Brian Pomper.

Finally, I would like to thank Polly Craighill of the office of the Senate Legislative Counsel for the many hours she put into drafting the implementing bill. Without her patience, hard work, and skills, today's vote would not have been possible.

I look forward to the signing of this legislation into law by President Bush.

#### RESOLVE, THE NATIONAL INFERTILITY ASSOCIATION

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to commend RESOLVE, the National Infertility Association, on its three decades of accomplishment and for the many activities it has planned to observe National Infertility Awareness Week, which will be celebrated this year during the week of September 26 to October 2, 2004.

For 30 years, RESOLVE has compassionately and effectively served the needs of the nearly seven million Americans comprising our Nation's infertile community, and has been a leading force in efforts to educate the broader public about this devastating condition. Infertility is recognized as a disease and medical condition that has devastating physical, social and psychological consequences.

RESOLVE, the National Infertility Association, was incorporated by Barbara Eck Menning, in 1974, to aid and support individuals with infertility. RESOLVE is a nonprofit organization, governed by a volunteer board of directors, many of whom are individuals with first-hand personal experience with the physical, emotional, and social challenges accompanying infertility. They are citizens who have overcome these challenges through assisted reproductive technologies and adoption or determined that their lives would be childless. Regardless of their resolution, RESOLVE helped them to reach it with information, education, and support. RESOLVE's leaders are also members of the professional community who address these issues including National Institutes of Health funded

researchers, attorneys, physicians, nurses, and other representatives from the health care industry and related businesses. RESOLVE has a database of more than 40,000 individuals and providers, and a network of more than 40 chapters providing support services, information and grassroots advocacy in local communities nationwide.

National Infertility Awareness Week focuses attention on the fact that infertility affects approximately 6.6 million people in the United States, a figure which represents 1 in 10 couples in which the woman is of reproductive age. These are only the reported cases. Millions go unreported because of the stigma attached to infertility and recent surveys suggest that nearly three-quarters of those who can be helped do not seek medical or other assistance because of, among other things, their fears and lack of awareness of the resources available to them and the limited insurance coverage to assist them. The National Institutes of Health, most particularly the National Institute for Child Health and Development, spends approximately \$300 million a year on biomedical research focused on reproductive health, treatments, and cures of reproductive disorders. This important research will advance our understanding of infertility-associated diseases and the availability of more effective and affordable treatments that will be respected by insurers and employers as a routine benefit for all those insured.

I am proud that my state of Hawaii and 14 other states have enacted laws that require insurance companies to provide some level of coverage for infertility treatment. Like the thousands of individuals working as part of the RESOLVE network, a dedicated community of Americans, I am committed to helping to ensure that those struggling with the multiple challenges of infertility have regular access to appropriate and affordable health care coverage to address their health care needs.

I applaud the work of RESOLVE, The National Infertility Association, and commend the many ongoing efforts and special activities throughout the country aimed to educate and inform the public about the issue of infertility, during National Infertility Awareness Week, September 26 to October 2, 2004.

#### "FOUR TRIALS"

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as we approach the end of this Congress, we will reach a point when a number of us will make statements reflecting on those who will not be returning to the Senate next year. I will miss a number of Senators who have chosen not to seek reelection. Today, I want to focus on a Senator who is responding to the country's call by joining with another extraordinary American leader, JOHN KERRY, in this year's national campaign. I speak, of course, of JOHN EDWARDS, whose energy, optimism and good sense have been a great asset to the Senate over the last 6 years.