

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I hope we can continue to work on the underlying amendment with the goal of having a vote on it shortly. I also want to announce to all of my colleagues that we do intend to vote on Senator SPECTER's amendment tomorrow. I recognize there are a few Senators who have not been heard on it who desire to be heard, but we do intend to conclude the debate and vote on Senator SPECTER's amendment tomorrow.

I thank the Chair.

AMENDMENT NO. 3731

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I will never forget my visit to Ground Zero. I hope that September 11 is an event that will never be repeated, on any scale, in our country or anywhere in the world.

I share the goal of all my colleagues that our Nation be as prepared as possible, should such an event occur. However, in seeking to improve our capability to respond to terrorism, it is critical that we do not lose our capability to respond to natural disasters, which happen much more frequently than terrorist events.

The Inhofe-Jeffords second degree amendment to the Collins' amendment will ensure that as we seek to enhance our ability to respond to terrorist events, we do not lose our ability to respond to natural disasters.

I thank my colleagues, the chair and ranking member of the Government Affairs Committee and Senator CARPER, a cosponsor of the Collins amendment for agreeing to accept this amendment.

The role of a first responder, whether responding to a terrorist event or a natural disaster is, for the most part, the same. For decades, the Federal, State, and local governments in this Nation have partnered together to plan, prepare, respond, and recover from both minor and major natural disasters.

We have a robust system for responding to these events, authorized through the Stafford Act and executed through FEMA. My home State of Vermont has a long history with emergency management.

My colleague and friend, Senator Bob Stafford of Vermont, served as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee for many years and ushered the Stafford Act through Congress in 1974. The Stafford Act is the authorizing statute for emergency response activities at the Federal level, and it forms the basis for the emergency management system in this Nation. The Stafford Act gave structure to an emergency response process where virtually none existed in the past.

FEMA, which was formed in 1979 and incorporated into the Department of Homeland Security in the Homeland Security Act, is a robust agency, with extensive experience in all-hazards planning, preparing, response, and recovery. It has a tradition of providing quick response to people in immediate need.

As Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee during the 107th Congress, I recognized the need to provide assistance to our first responders. I was struck during my visits to the Pentagon and the World Trade Center in particular at the inability of first responders to communicate with each other. To combat this and the other shortcomings we observed, I introduced S. 2664, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Act of 2003 with my colleague Senator Bob Smith. The EPW Committee reported that bill on June 27, 2002.

During this Congress, Senator INHOFE and I worked together to introduce S. 930, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Act of 2003. The EPW Committee reported that bill favorably on July 30, 2003, by voice vote.

Before the formation of the Department of Homeland Security, I expressed grave concerns about the proposal to incorporate FEMA into the Department of Homeland Security. I was concerned at that time that the robust agency we saw jumping every hurdle after September 11, 2001 to provide assistance to World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and to hundreds of natural disasters each year, would give way under the pressure of the enormous bureaucracy of the Department of Homeland Security and lose its ability to respond quickly and effectively to disasters.

I remain concerned today. However, the administration prevailed and incorporated FEMA in DHS with the enactment of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

Since the formation of DHS, FEMA has administered aid for 169 major disasters, 29 emergency declarations, and 172 fire management assistance declarations—all natural disasters. That is 370 communities that have received emergency assistance from the Federal Government and our Nation's first responders for natural disasters.

Over the last several weeks, we have seen record-breaking hurricanes rip through the southeast bringing high winds, flooding, tornadoes, and beach erosion. In my home State of Vermont, we recently had a disaster declared for extensive flooding throughout the State.

The Inhofe-Jeffords second degree amendment ensures that FEMA, the agency responsible for administering our Nation's disaster response programs, is involved in the distribution of funds to first responders and that grants made are consistent with the Stafford Act. This ensures that we will not lose the level of preparedness and response that we have seen at work in States like Florida over the last few weeks.

We obviously need to be prepared for the small percentage of the time when a terrorist event may occur, but we cannot ignore the day-to-day operations, which affect so many lives.

I thank my colleagues, the distinguished chair and ranking member of

the subcommittee as well as Senator CARPER, a cosponsor of the Collins amendment, for working with us to incorporate our second degree into the underlying amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

#### NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2004

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending business be set aside and that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. R. 4011 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4011) to promote human rights and freedom in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Brownback amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 3728) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (H. R. 4011), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, for the information of my colleagues, what we are considering is something that has been negotiated extensively. It has passed the House of Representatives. It has been negotiated extensively in the Foreign Relations Committee amongst the members interested. It is on the issue of North Korean human rights, or the lack thereof, and U.S. policy.

This bill establishes for the first time—the first time in at least a generation—a human rights principle toward North Korea. Everybody is familiar with the six-party talks that are going on regarding North Korea and nuclear weapons and the threatening nature of the North Korean Government, of its testing missiles, of it moving military operations to threaten people around the country, in South Korea, in Japan, and in particular the United States to give them direct aid to guarantee their security, and issues mostly surrounding the nuclear weapons development.

This bill brings into focus a United States Government position on North Korean human rights abuses, which are extensive, probably the worst human rights abuses in the world. It is at least in the top two or three, and that is saying something when you consider what is taking place in the Sudan and Iran.

North Korea lost 10 percent of its population in the last 10 years to starvation. We think they have something

around 150,000 people, maybe more, in the gulag system, political prisoners. There is trafficking of individuals taking place within that country. They are counterfeiting money. They are drug running. They are gunrunning. This is a criminal enterprise that is taking place.

This bill deals with the human rights issues. It brings it front and center. The bill requires a report to be issued. It requires the Secretary of State to put forward a person of high distinction to press the human rights agenda, and we hope to get the issue of human rights in North Korea elevated to the same level or in the level with the talks in the six-party system.

The North Korean Government, when it talks about nuclear weapons development, will bluster and talk a great deal and say they need to be able to do this and they are threatening, but when you raise the issue of human rights, they go silent because there is no response to the shame of what they have done to their own people.

We are elevating this issue and making clear the United States Government position on the issue of human rights in North Korea. This is a very important bill. I am delighted we passed it this evening.

I wanted to give that brief explanation of this bill as it moves through the process, now to go back to the House and to the President.

I thank my colleague from Maine for yielding the floor and giving me this time. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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 (Mr. TALENT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators speaking for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### 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 August 16, 2000, in New Hope, PA, Douglas Trinkley, 21, and Larry Chroman, 36, were charged with assault, disorderly conduct and reckless endangerment of another person for al-

legedly attacking another man because of the man's sexual orientation.

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.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS NATHAN E. STAHL

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man who grew up in Highland, IN. PFC Nathan E. Stahl, 20 years old, died on September 21, when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by a homemade roadside bomb in Iraq. With his entire life before him, Nathan chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A Highland native, Nathan graduated from Highland High School in 2003, and joined the Army shortly thereafter. Nathan was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, a special operations unit based in Fort Lewis, WA. Due to the nature of Nathan's assignments, he was never able to disclose exactly where he had been or where he was going to his family and friends. Despite these hardships, loved ones say Nathan was living his dream by serving his country. The last time Nathan saw his family was 3 months ago when he visited them for 9 days during a period of authorized leave. Nathan faced his frequent deployments willingly and fought bravely before sacrificing his life for the worthy cause of freedom.

Nathan was the 35th Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother, Towina; his father; his stepfather, Rodney; and his two sisters, Nichol and Abigail.

Today, I join Nathan's family, his friends and all Americans in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this tremendous loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Nathan, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Nathan was known for his dedicated spirit and his love of country. According to family and friends, joining the Armed Forces was something Nathan had wanted to do since he was a young boy. His mother, Towina, told the Times of Northwest Indiana that she remembers Nathan at 13 insisting that they visit an Army recruiter. He joined the Army only 6 years later. Aside from being a soldier, Nathan enjoyed weight lifting and working on cars.

Today and always, Nathan will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Nathan's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Nathan's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Nathan E. Stahl in the official record of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Nathan's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Nathan.

#### OFHEO'S INVESTIGATION OF FANNIE MAE

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight's, OFHEO, findings-to-date report on its "Special Examination of Fannie Mae" is deeply troubling. It raises serious doubts about the ability of Fannie Mae's management to correct the safety and soundness problems at Fannie Mae. What is most troubling is that OFHEO had to use subpoenas in order to conduct its congressionally authorized investigation of Fannie Mae. Fannie Mae's resistance to cooperate with this investigation is unacceptable.

Based on the findings in OFHEO's report, it is clear why OFHEO's requests were repeatedly rebuffed by a stonewall of silence and why Fannie Mae's management insisted on keeping its financial operations in a black box. OFHEO's report shows among other things that Fannie Mae's top management indulged in a windfall of bonuses after it improperly manipulated the company's annual earnings. If these actions are found to be deliberately linked, then the board of Fannie Mae needs to take appropriate action and address the problem, just as the board of Freddie Mac did last year.

The boards of both GSEs have a fiduciary responsibility to their shareholders and the public to ensure that