

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

any improper actions by management are dealt with swiftly and accordingly. The confidence in the GSEs has a direct impact on the stability of the American economy. The American people and the markets must have confidence in the operations of the congressionally chartered Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

We need to build upon legislation that several of my colleagues and I introduced last year. The Senate Banking Committee passed a watered down version of our legislation, but it is clear from OFHEO's findings that it is not adequate. To prevent these serious actions from occurring, the new GSE regulator must have at a minimum the same powers and resources as those of other financial regulators such as the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

House Banking Subcommittee Chairman RICHARD BAKER has scheduled a hearing next week to examine the problems at Fannie Mae. There are still too many unanswered questions and I look forward to seeing the results of the House hearing. Given the frequency of the accounting problems, pattern of manipulation and questionable management actions at both Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, Congress can no longer look the other way.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF AMERICA REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to note that this evening the House of Representatives has considered and passed legislation that Senator HATCH and I introduced together to reauthorize and expand the Department of Justice grant program for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. I thank Senator HATCH for his longtime commitment to our bipartisan legislation and thank the 46 Senators from both sides of the aisle who are cosponsors of our legislation to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

I pay special thanks to House Judiciary Committee Chairman SENSENBRENNER and Ranking Member CONYERS for their leadership and commitment to shepherding this bill through the House and sending it to the President's desk for enactment into law.

Too often the public sees Republicans and Democrats disagreeing. But when it comes to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America there is no doubt that we see eye to eye: This bill shows the unified support of Republicans and Democrats for the good works of Boys & Girls Clubs across the Nation.

Children are the future of our country, and we have a responsibility to make sure they are safe and secure. I know firsthand how well Boys & Girls Clubs work and what topnotch organizations they are. When I was a prosecutor in Vermont, I was convinced of the great need for Boys & Girls Clubs because we rarely encountered children

from these kinds of programs. In fact, after I became a U.S. Senator, a police chief was such a big fan that he asked me to help fund a Boys & Girls Club in his district rather than helping him get a couple more police officers.

In Vermont, Boys & Girls Clubs have succeeded in preventing crime and supporting our children. The first club was established in Burlington 62 years ago. Now we have 20 club sites operating throughout the State in Addison, Chittenden, Orange, Rutland, Washington, Windham and Windsor Counties. There are also four new Boys & Girls Clubs in the works in Winooski, Brattleboro, Barre and Vergennes. These clubs will serve well over 10,000 kids statewide.

As a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have pushed for more Federal funding for Boys & Girls Clubs. Since 1998, Congress has increased Federal support for Boys & Girls Clubs from \$20 million to \$80 million in this year. Due in large part to this increase in funding, there now exist 3,300 Boys & Girls Clubs in all 50 States serving more than 3.6 million young people. Because of these successes, I was both surprised and disappointed to see that the President requested a reduction of \$20 million for fiscal year 2005. That request will leave thousands of children and their clubs behind and we cannot allow such a thing to happen.

In the 107th Congress, Senator HATCH and I worked together to pass the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act, which included a provision to reauthorize Justice Department grants to establish new Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide. By authorizing \$80 million in DOJ grants for each of the fiscal years through 2005, we sought to establish 1,200 additional Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide. This was to bring the number of Boys & Girls Clubs to 4,000, serving no less than 5 million young people.

The bill the House will pass today builds upon this: We authorize Justice Department grants at \$80 million for fiscal year 2006, \$85 million for fiscal year 2007, \$90 million for fiscal year 2008, \$95 million for fiscal year 2009 and \$100 million for fiscal year 2010 to Boys & Girls Clubs to help establish 1,500 additional Boys & Girls Clubs across the Nation with the goal of having 5,000 Boys & Girls Clubs in operation by December 31, 2010.

If we had a Boys & Girls Club in every community, prosecutors in our country would have a lot less work to do because of the values that are being instilled in children from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Each time I visit a club in Vermont, I am approached by parents, educators, teachers, grandparents and law enforcement officers who tell me "Keep doing this! These clubs give our children the chance to grow up free of drugs, gangs and crime."

You cannot argue that these are just Democratic or Republican ideas, or

conservative or liberal ideas—they are simply good sense ideas. We need safe havens where our youth—the future of our country—can learn and grow up free from the influences of drugs, gangs and crime. That is why Boys & Girls Clubs are so important to our children.

I look forward to the President signing into law as soon as possible our bipartisan bill to expand Federal support for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Our country's strength and ultimate success lies with our children. Our greatest responsibility is to help them inhabit this century the best way possible and we can help do that by supporting the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

AGRICULTURE DISASTER FUNDING

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the agricultural disaster assistance package that was included in the Senate Homeland Security Appropriations bill. Many farmers and ranchers in my home State of South Dakota are suffering from their third, fourth and even fifth year of drought. As House and Senate differences are reconciled, I urge the conferees to retain the important disaster provisions that were approved on such a wide bipartisan basis in the Senate.

The drought provisions I supported, along with Senator DASCHLE, will help farmers and ranchers survive a severe drought. While I would have hoped producers wouldn't be faced with a choice for assistance for either 2003 or 2004, I understand that money is short in these times of soaring budget deficits. The Senate disaster assistance plan will provide almost \$2.9 billion to farmers and ranchers across the country who are suffering from agricultural disaster. The \$475 million for the Livestock Assistance Program, in addition to the \$2.464 billion for the Crop Disaster Program, are critical to my State.

This drought package was introduced by my colleagues, Senator BAUCUS and Senator BURNS, and with the help of Senator DASCHLE it was added as an amendment to the fiscal year 2005 Homeland Security funding bill by a voice vote. A voice vote reflects the overwhelming bipartisan support this drought aid package has. It is frustrating that there are members of the House majority party who would reduce or even eliminate disaster aid funding for ailing farmers and ranchers, or choose to gut other crucial agricultural programs to pay for this necessary assistance.

In 2002, Senator DASCHLE and I proposed a \$6 billion drought package, which was opposed by the President and some Members of the House. That package was pared down to \$3 billion before its passage. The current package is very similar to the package that was approved for the 2001–2002 drought. Thanks to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, including Senator DASCHLE's efforts to secure an opportunity to address this issue, we have a