

democratic Iraq can only come about if average Iraqis are willing to sacrifice to build it.

On Sunday, they rose to the occasion. Some lost their lives, but their lives were not lost in vain. I am convinced that a country by the Iraqi people and for the Iraqi people will be built on the foundation laid down by the voters on Sunday. And having sacrificed to gain a democratic Iraq, they won't let it go easily.

Baghdad's mayor was overwhelmed by the turnout of voters at city hall where thousands were celebrating and holding up their purple ink-stained fingers with pride. The mayor said, "I cannot describe what I am seeing. It is incredible. This is a vote for the future, for the children, for the rule of law, for humanity, for love." It is truly a new beginning for Iraq.

The election in Iraq clearly demonstrates that Iraqi people are like people everywhere. They desire to create a future in an environment that is safe and allows them to reach their full potential as human beings, whatever that potential may be. The election did not occur in a vacuum. It is the latest and most dramatic example of Iraqis taking control of their country's destiny.

In less than a year, the Iraqi Regular Army and Intervention Forces have grown from one operational battalion to 21 battalions, with six more scheduled to become operational over the next month.

Last month, the Iraqi National Guard was incorporated into the Army, making a total of 68 Iraqi battalions conducting operations.

Today, the Iraqi Police Service has over 55,000 trained and equipped police officers, more than double the amount of just 6 months ago. More than 38,000 additional police are on duty and scheduled for training.

As of last month, more than 108,000 local Iraqis had been hired to work on U.S.-funded reconstruction projects, using as many local subcontractors as possible.

Yes, things are, indeed looking up for Iraq and the Iraqi people. But there is still hard work ahead. It is a difficult process to transform a society that has never known democracy. One hopeful sign occurred earlier this week when influential figures from the Sunni community signaled their willingness to engage the new Iraqi government and play a role in drafting the constitution. Thirteen parties, including a representative of the powerful Association of Muslim Scholars and other parties that boycotted the vote, agreed Thursday to take part in the drafting of the constitution, which will be the transitional parliament's main task. The leading Shiite candidate to be Iraq's new Prime Minister welcomed these overtures and said he was willing to "offer the maximum" to involve Sunni Arabs in the new government.

Yes, change takes time, and only time will tell if the Iraqi election will

go down as one of the most important dates in modern history. I'm inclined to believe it will. But between now and when the history books are written it was enough, for me, to stand in awe of the courage of a free people half a world away.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On September 24, 2004, a young man was attacked outside of a club in Davis, CA. The attack on the victim was apparently due to a case of mistaken identity. The victim in the case resembled a gay man known by the assailant, and the attack was motivated by the attacker's belief that the victim was gay. During the attack, the victim suffered a broken nose and was knocked unconscious by his assailant. The attacker repeatedly yelled slurs regarding the victim's sexual orientation during the assault.

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.

#### DEAN MEINEN

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly recognize Dean Meinen of my D.C. staff on his contributions and accomplishments to my office and the State of South Dakota. For years, Dean Meinen has served as my economic development director. He is leaving my office to go work with Strategic Marketing Innovations, which represents science and technology firms throughout the country.

I know first hand that Dean has done a great deal to enhance opportunity and prosperity all across South Dakota. He is an extraordinarily talented person with a great deal of energy and ambition. Dean is not only a great friend, but a well-respected staffer throughout the U.S. Senate. He has earned the respect and admiration of all those who have had the opportunity to work with him. His passion and love for his work have improved the lives of countless South Dakotans. Dean's friendly demeanor and wealth of knowledge have helped him develop close relationships with his colleagues and with community leaders throughout our State. His tireless effort to dig

for details and explore all sides of particular issues reflects both his skill and his dedication to his work.

I first met Dean when he was a fresh-faced young man that I hired for an entry-level mail processing job. I was impressed by his enthusiasm, his belief in the good people of South Dakota, and his political abilities that were developed well beyond his years. A few years later, I asked him to run my 1994 reelection campaign. After the campaign was over, I hired him back to do legislative work in my congressional office. For the past several years, he has served as my economic development director and has worked very hard to advance South Dakota's prosperity and to diversify our economy.

Dean's departure is a huge loss to South Dakota, and I personally know that he struggled with the decision to leave my office. His kind of leadership and character is exactly what the economic development community needs to evolve and succeed in the future. I wish but the best for him on all his exciting new challenges and opportunities. It is with great honor that I share his impressive accomplishments with my colleagues.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, each Congress I rise to honor February as Black History Month. Each February since 1926, our Nation has recognized the contributions of Black Americans to the history of our Nation.

This is no accident; February is a significant month in Black American history. Abolitionist Frederick Douglass, President Abraham Lincoln, and scholar and civil rights leader W.E.B. DuBois were born in the month of February. The 15th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified 132 years ago this month, preventing race discrimination in the right to vote. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded in February in New York City. Last Tuesday, February 1, was the 45th anniversary of the Greensboro Four's historic sit-in. And on February 25, 1870, this body welcomed its first Black Senator, Hiram R. Revels of Mississippi.

In this important month I want to celebrate some of the contributions made by Black Americans in my home State of Oregon. Since Marcus Lopez, who sailed with Captain Robert Gray in 1788, became the first person of African descent known to set foot in Oregon, a great many Black Americans have helped shape the history of my State. Throughout this month, I will come to the floor to highlight some of their stories.

Beatrice Cannady moved to Oregon in 1910. Soon thereafter she married E.D. Cannady, who was the founder of the Advocate, Portland's only African-American newspaper at the time. Beatrice Cannady quickly became one of the most important civil rights activists in Oregon. Just 4 years after her

arrival, she helped found Portland's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. She eventually became the chief editor of the Advocate, and often used the newspaper as a pulpit from which to protest the State's discriminatory policies.

In 1922, Beatrice Cannady became the first African-American woman to be admitted to the Oregon Bar. She helped craft Oregon's first civil-rights legislation providing full access to public accommodations regardless of race or color. Although this legislation was ultimately defeated, she was successful in leading a drive to repeal the "Black Laws" of Oregon which excluded African-Americans from residing in the State.

Through the NAACP, Beatrice Cannady was instrumental in ending school segregation in Vernonia, OR and Longview, WA. She traveled throughout Oregon to give lectures in schools about African-American history, and hosted parties in an attempt to alleviate tensions between white and black members of communities. In 1932, she launched a campaign to represent Oregon's 5th Congressional District in Congress.

Although Beatrice Cannady moved away from Oregon in 1934, she will be remembered as one of Oregon's most influential civil rights pioneers.

She is only one example of the black men and women who changed the course of history in Oregon and in the United States. During the remainder of Black History Month, I will return to the floor to celebrate more Oregonians like Beatrice Cannady, whose contributions, while great, have not yet received the attention they deserve.

#### REAUTHORIZATION OF THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS ACT OF 2000

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today I rise in support of S. 267, to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. I cosponsored the original 2000 act because it stabilized payments to Montana's timber producing counties.

In 1905, the establishment of the national forests removed over 150 million acres in the Western States, including 16 million acres in Montana, from future private property ownership. To compensate the States and counties for this loss of property tax revenue, Congress passed the Twenty-Five Percent Fund Act of 1908. The act provided that 25 percent of receipts from each national forest would be paid to the State and county where the national forest is located for the benefit of public schools and public roads. Until the decline of the timber harvest program, the 1908 act provided enough funding to the States and counties.

However, beginning in the 1990s both nationally and in Montana, the timber harvest program declined over 85 percent and Federal payments to State

and county governments declined just as significantly. The reasons for the declining timber harvest are many; appeals and litigation by special interest groups, wildfires destroying valuable timber, internal Forest Service red-tape, and each of those issues needs to be addressed to ensure the Forest Service is meeting its obligation to restore healthy forests and the communities that depend on them. This act is important because it doesn't punish schools and counties when timber harvests are uncertain.

In 2000, just like in 1908, Congress recognized these States and counties needed stability in the 25-percent payments in order to plan year to year and provide valuable services. Without the Secure Rural Schools Act, in 2004, Montana counties would have received only \$6 million, rather than the \$11.7 million provided under the 2000 act. The education of nearly 100,000 Montana schoolchildren in 170 school districts in 34 counties is affected by these payments.

Another benefit of the act is the "full payment" option. Under this option, counties can reserve 15 to 20 percent of the payment for title II, Public Land Projects. These project funds are allocated by a 15-person Resource Advisory Committee, RAC, comprised of tribal members, local elected officials, and Federal land user organizations.

Let me give you some examples of title II projects funded in Lincoln County, where the RAC allocated \$1.6 million in project work that included improving soil and water quality at a ski area; restoration of a mile of bull trout and west slope cutthroat stream habitat; and road maintenance projects to improve water quality.

I have talked with county commissioners and other Montanans who are RAC members. The RACs have fostered a spirit of cooperation and focus on what everyone has in common and encourage stewardship of our national forests.

I can't think of anything better to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of our national forests than the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

#### TRIBUTE TO LARRY JANEZICH

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I seek recognition today to pay tribute to an able and valued member of the Senate family, Larry Janezich, who retires this month after nearly four decades of service to this institution.

As a former chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, it was my pleasure to work closely with Larry and his staff as they managed coverage for Senate hearings, news conferences, and other media events during my time as head of that panel.

As chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on the Presidential Inauguration in 1997, I had the opportunity to observe firsthand Larry's great skill in balancing the demands of

the press who covered that historic event with the security concerns required by the Secret Service.

During that time, and for more than a quarter century, Larry served the news correspondents of the Senate and House with distinction. I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the following thoughtful tribute to Larry from his colleague, Mike Viqueira, chairman of the Executive Committee of Correspondents of the Congressional Radio-TV Galleries.

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

#### FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO LARRY JANEZICH

(By Mike Viqueira, written with the assistance of Dean Norland of ABC News)

Larry came here when the Senate gallery was little more than a broom closet and has ended up devoting most of his life to the place. There were very few producers or "off-airs" in those days, just reporters who worked on typewriters and used dial telephones. The wire machines clacked and ticked . . . someone had to rip them and post them, and change the ribbon. You could smoke a cigar in the gallery studio and there was a leather couch in case someone wanted to take a nap.

There were no live shots. If it were a really big event and you wanted to go live, then you had to get the phone company out here to install a cable about as thick as your thumb, and only 3 or 4 film crews showed up for news conferences in the tiny studio.

Larry has seen and been a part of a lot of history during his tenure . . . from Water-gate hearings . . . debates over wars from Vietnam to Iraq . . . the Clarence Thomas hearings . . . Inaugurations of presidents and the impeachment trial of one of them. He was here when terrorists set off explosions on the Senate side. Those are just the most notable events.

But what we don't often consider is all the little, day-to-day, year-to-year jobs that the gallery director handles for our membership . . . from stewardship of the TASC funds to the compilation of the minutes of these very meetings, Larry has done it all with conscientious professionalism. He has worked too many late nights to even remember and assuredly had to change many vacation plans, tailoring his life to the whims and caprice of the U.S. Senate.

Larry is both a loyal Senate employee and a student of the institution, and there can be no doubt that he cares very passionately about what happens here. He has always tried to strike a fair balance between the government and the press; to negotiate fairly the no-man's-land that describes the relationship between the two.

His job is an interesting one. No doubt it is sometimes enjoyable, and sometimes difficult. Larry is not only a very good cook (his polenta is said to be top notch) but an ardent Dylan fan. So, now as you put the Capitol in the rear view, it's time to go out and enjoy life. So Larry, remember that even though it's all over now, Baby Blue\*, don't think twice, it's alright.\*\*

\*"It's All Over Now, Baby Blue" by Bob Dylan, Copyright© 1965; renewed 1993 Special Rider Music

\*\*"Don't Think Twice, It's Alright" by Bob Dylan, Copyright© 1963; renewed 1991 Special Rider Music

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I think it is fair to say that each of us in the Senate joins Larry's colleagues in offering this tribute and we wish him best of luck in his retirement.