

with OMB regarding the increased threshold. Through negotiations during the critical early hours following the passage of the micropurchase increase, OMB agreed to issue guidance which provided a temporary limit on who could utilize the new limits. This guidance helped to prevent undocumented spending and potential abuse; however, it only served as a temporary stop-gap measure.

On September 15, I introduced legislation on this topic. The bill introduced, S. 1716—the Emergency Health Care Relief Act of 2005—contained a provision that would roll back the increased micropurchase thresholds to a responsible level while maintaining flexibility for those providing relief in the impacted Gulf States. I included this provision in the bill I introduced because of my experience in fighting fraud, waste, and abuse that has occurred as a result of Government credit cards.

Unfortunately, S. 1716 has been held up in this body for too long, preventing legislation from fixing this potential giveaway and delaying health care to those most desperately in need.

I was pleased to hear that Senators DORGAN and WYDEN have voiced their concerns by recently introducing legislation on this matter. I am also pleased that legislation which was introduced by Senators COLLINS and LIEBERMAN on this matter was recently reported out of Committee in a favorable voice vote. Both of these bills represent what I believe is the sense of Congress, that this increased limit must be reduced statutorily.

On October 3, OMB revised its guidance for micropurchases, reducing the increased limits from \$250,000 to \$2,500, the same correction sought in the different legislation introduced by Senators COLLINS and LIEBERMAN and the subsequent legislation by Senators DORGAN and WYDEN. I applaud OMB for stepping forward and taking corrective action; however, I remain concerned that this limit could be changed by OMB at any time as the increased limit still remains in the law.

Fortunately, OMB has listened to my recommendations and recognized the need to rescind this provision and is now supporting efforts to provide a legislative fix. I have learned from OMB that all agencies within the Government have agreed that the higher limit is unnecessary and also support reducing the increased limit.

The micropurchase threshold increase needs to be repealed permanently by Congress and not merely corrected through regulatory guidance. As this body continues to hold up action on S. 1716, the best option for quick and decisive action to reduce this increased credit limit is to support the legislation introduced by Senators COLLINS and LIEBERMAN which was recently voted out by the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs.

S. 1716 remains an important piece of legislation providing health care for

those who have been affected by the tragedy in the Gulf States. By no means should my support of this legislation be seen as reducing the need to pass S. 1716 however; it just makes sense for this body to move quickly in closing this potential loophole for fraud, waste, and abuse.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting quick passage of both S. 1716 and the legislation offered by Senators COLLINS and LIEBERMAN, to help prevent relief dollars from being lost to fraud, waste, and abuse and provide the much needed health care to the region devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month. I was proud to support, along with my Senate colleagues, a resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the vast contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to the strength and culture of our Nation.

I would like to take a moment now to honor the contributions of the Latino community in the great State of New Jersey. New Jersey's 1.3 million Hispanic Americans are an integral and vital part of our State, contributing to every aspect of life, from business to culture. Hispanic or Latino Americans represent nearly 15 percent of the population of my State. They are the largest and fastest-growing minority group in the Nation and in New Jersey.

As the son of immigrants who came to this country for the opportunities it offers, I am proud of the way our Latino neighbors have worked to make a better life for themselves and for their children.

New Jersey is home to more than 50,000 Latino-owned businesses, ranging from big corporations like Goya Foods, which is based in Secaucus, to small mom-and-pop bodegas. Through their energy and talent, these Hispanic businesses in New Jersey generate more than \$9 billion in economic activity and support 167,000 jobs.

Latinos contribute to our economy, to our culture, and also to our public life. Hispanic Americans serve our Nation and the State of New Jersey at all levels of government—as mayors and municipal council members, county freeholders, and in countless elected and appointed capacities throughout the State. Seven members of the State's current General Assembly are of Hispanic descent, as well as a member of our Congressional delegation, Congressman ROBERT MENEZES. In 2004, Justice Roberto Rivera-Soto became the first Hispanic American to serve on New Jersey's Supreme Court. And just this year, New Jersey's first Latino county prosecutor was appointed.

I am honored today to recognize the efforts and contributions of New Jersey's Hispanic Americans and I thank my colleagues for supporting this important resolution.

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 April 27, 1998, Stephen Goedereis, was killed by two teens near his home in Miami, FL. Goedereis was walking down the street, when he complimented one of the two teens. The teens then beat Goedereis, who subsequently died 2 days later in the local hospital. The teens were convicted of second degree murder and robbery, both of which were classified as hate crimes. 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.

LIBERIA'S ELECTIONS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I commend the Liberian people on their recent Presidential and parliamentary elections. News reports of people camping outside polling areas to vote, strong voter turnout, and a free and fair democratic process in Liberia are inspiring. Following a 14-year-long civil war and the regime of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor, who fled in exile in August 2003, the war-tired people of Liberia deserve our support as they work to bring about a legitimate, representative government in that country.

However, Liberia's elections are not the silver bullet for stability. There remains much work to be done to build long-term stability in this country, and the U.S. has a meaningful role to play. We must remain engaged in Liberia to help rebuild and strengthen institutions. The legitimacy of government is contingent upon the public's confidence, and lasting stability depends on such steps as rooting out corruption and providing transparency in government. The Liberian people deserve our unflinching support in those endeavors. Too much is at stake to turn our back and allow Liberia to regress into a state that houses a corrupt and abusive government and further destabilizes West Africa.

In looking forward, Liberians must also reconcile with the past. Years of horrible violence and conflict and the drastic decline of humanitarian conditions in the country under the regime of Charles Taylor need resolution. We also know now that Charles Taylor's

desire for power and wealth extended beyond the borders of Liberia. I firmly believe that Charles Taylor is a war criminal, and I maintain that he should stand trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The U.S. and the international community have a responsibility to ensure that the circle of violence and impunity in Liberia does not continue in its nascent government. And we must continue to help the Liberian people combat corruption, because no new leadership can bring lasting change if that fundamental problem is not addressed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

A TRIBUTE TO JUDGE TOMMY JEWELL

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a man of hope and deep conviction who has displayed a tireless commitment to improving the lives of New Mexicans. After serving the State of New Mexico for 22 years, Judge Tommy Jewell stepped down from the bench on September 30, 2005. With his resignation, New Mexico lost one of its finest, most compassionate public servants.

Judge Jewell began his career by breaking down barriers. In 1983, he became the first African American ever appointed to the New Mexico bench. In 1991, after serving for 8 years in Metropolitan Court as Chief Judge, Judge Jewell was appointed to Children's Court in New Mexico's Second Judicial District. Judge Jewell approached each case and each child who came before him with the same underlying philosophy: no one is beyond the reach of hope and everyone is capable of turning his or her life around and moving it in the right direction.

In dealing with juvenile offenders in the Children's Court, Judge Jewell emphasized the need for these young people to take responsibility for their actions. However, he also conveyed his strong belief that, by acknowledging their mistakes and owning up to the consequences, the troubled teens with whom he dealt could find power within themselves to change their life for the better. While striving to keep a firm hand and not let serious offenses go unmet by serious consequences, Judge Jewell believed that there was a degree of goodness in every person who stood before him. Moreover, he was unrelenting in his contention that children would learn more about themselves and how to contribute positively to society by working in recovery programs than they ever could while sitting on a bench behind jail bars.

Well liked and respected by his colleagues, Judge Jewell was honored for Outstanding Judicial Service by the State Bar of New Mexico in 1997 and, in 2001, was named Outstanding Judge by the Albuquerque Bar Association.

Judge Jewell's work in the legal field prior to becoming a judge helped him

develop skills that contributed to his success while serving on the bench. He was a partner in the successful law firm of Jewell, Kelly, and Kitson. After graduating from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1979, Judge Jewell went to work as a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society, which provides essential legal services to the poor.

In addition to his success as a dedicated public servant, Tommy Jewell is also a man of many interests and talents. Judge Jewell is an avid musician and drummer in a band. As an undergraduate, he was a member of the New Mexico State University football team. Judge Jewell is also a dedicated family man. He and his wife Judge Angela Jewell, also a longtime public servant, have two children, Thomas and Taja.

During his career as a public servant, Judge Jewell has broken racial barriers and empowered many young New Mexicans by helping them believe in themselves. With his resignation, New Mexico loses one of its most committed and effective judges, but there is no doubt in my mind that Judge Tommy Jewell will continue to serve his State with great passion and success.●

TRIBUTE TO IOWA'S 2005 "PRIME TIME AWARDS" WINNERS

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, Experience Works is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping seniors get the training and assistance they need to find good jobs in their communities. Each year, Experience Works uses its Prime Time Awards program to recognize exemplary older workers. This year, two Iowans have been honored. Dwight Hauff of Sioux City, who is 100 years old, has been selected for a national award as America's Oldest Worker. And Milt Roth of Waterloo, who is 87, has been selected as Iowa's Outstanding Older Worker.

Mr. Hauff is the owner of a chain of sporting goods stores that includes Hauff Mid-America Sports, Dakota Sports, Inc., and the Iowa Sports Supply Company. He opened his first sporting goods store in Sioux City in 1933 at the height of the Great Depression. For 73 years, Mr. Hauff has supplied schools, athletic leagues, and businesses with quality sports equipment and apparel. In the 1960s, Dwight served as president of the National Sporting Goods Association. He is a past president of the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment, and is a current member of the Iowa High School Girls and Boys Athletic Association. At age 100, Mr. Hauff is still going strong. He spends 6 days a week at his sporting goods store in downtown Sioux City, where he is a much respected and beloved member of the community.

Mr. Roth is the owner and operator of Roth Jewelers, which his father founded in 1931, and which is now the second oldest retail business in downtown Waterloo. During the Second World War,

Mr. Roth served in the U.S. Army and was initially assigned to the Armored Cavalry Unit at Fort Riley, KS. He attended Officers Candidate School, was commissioned as a lieutenant, and served with an ordnance unit in the European Theater. After the war he returned to Waterloo, and took over ownership of Roth Jewelers from his father. These days, well into his ninth decade, Mr. Roth still regularly puts in 40 or more hours a week at his store. He remains very much engaged in his community, where he has served on the Allen Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, and has been an active member of the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club. He has been a generous supporter of scholarships, local colleges, and the performing arts.

Someone once said that we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. Dwight Hauff and Milt Roth have been blessed with work that they love, and, in return, they have given so much to their communities. I congratulate them on their richly deserved honors from Experience Works. And I wish them many more years of continued service.●

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLIE YATES

• Mr. ISAKSON. Yesterday, the city of Atlanta, the State of Georgia and the game of golf lost a legend and a friend, Charlie Yates.

Charlie Yates won the national college golf championship in 1934, and was a Walker Cup competitor twice. In 1938 Charlie Yates won the British Amateur Championship at Royal Troon in Scotland.

Charlie Yates was a close friend of the late Bobby Jones, and a constant playing partner with Jones at their beloved East Lake Golf Club. Yates played in eleven Masters tournaments, and was a member of the Augusta National Golf Club.

Charlie Yates's contributions were not limited to the game of golf. He served as president of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra from 1962 to 1965, and then chaired the Atlanta Arts Alliance which became the Woodruff Arts Center, one of America's great centers for the Arts.

Under Yates's leadership the Woodruff Arts Center's overall budget rose from \$3.8 million in 1973 to \$163 million in 1983, and he led the effort that raised \$5.4 million for the center's endowment.

Charlie Yates touched the lives of many Georgians, including this Senator, through his efforts on behalf of our community and through his wonderful family. I am honored to pay tribute to a great American, Charlie Yates.●

2005 SOLAR DECATHLON WINNER

• Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure and pride that I commend the University of Colorado