

program, and may adopt rules for its participation consistent with these regulations.

An employee who wishes to participate in this program shall make application with his or her office on a form which shall include a certification that such person is not a member of a motor pool, does not have any Senate parking privilege (or has relinquished same as a condition of participation), will use the fare media personally for traveling to and from his or her duty station, and will not exchange or sell the fare media provided under this program. The application shall include the following statement:

This certification concerns a matter within the jurisdiction of an agency of the United States and making a false, fictitious, or fraudulent certification may render the maker subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. §1001.

Safekeeping and distribution of fare media purchased for an office is the responsibility of the program manager in that office. Participating offices may not refund or replace any damaged, misplaced, lost, or stolen fare media.

SEC. 6. SENATE STATIONERY ROOM RESPONSIBILITIES.

The only program currently available in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area at this time is Metro Pool, a program established through Metro by the District of Columbia. Transit benefits will be provided through Metro Pool for participating offices in the Washington, D.C. area. The Committee on Rules and Administration shall enter into an agreement with Metro Pool for purchase of fare media by the Senate Stationery Room as required by participating offices on a monthly basis.

A participating office shall purchase the fare media with its authorized appropriated funds from the Senate Stationery Room through its stationery account pursuant to 2 U.S.C. §119.

Each office shall present to the Senate Stationery Room [two copies of] the certification referred to in section 7 of these regulations. A new certification shall be submitted when an [employer] employee is added to or deleted from the program. The Stationery Room shall make available to the Senate Rules Committee Audit Section a monthly summary of office participation in this program. In addition, the Stationery Room may not refund or replace any damaged, misplaced, lost, or stolen fare media that has been purchased through the office's stationery account.

SEC. 7. CERTIFICATION.

The certification required by section 6 shall be approved by the appointing authority and shall include the name, and social security number of each participating employee within that office, and the following statements:

(a) Each person included on the list is currently a qualified employee as defined in Section 3.

(b) No person included on the list has any current Senate parking privilege and that no parking privileges will be restored to any person on the list during the period for which the fare media is purchased.

(c) That each month's fare media for each participating employee does not exceed the maximum dollar amount specified in statute (currently [\$100] \$105).

SEC. 8. OTHER PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS.

Section 6 provides for procedures for participation by Washington offices in the Metro Pool program established through Metro by the District of Columbia. Additional programs in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, or programs offered in other locations where Members have offices that meet the requirements of the law and

these regulations, may be used for qualified employees, subject to the following requirements:

(A) Authorization

The public transit system shall submit information to the Committee on Rules and Administration that it participates in an established state or local government program to encourage the use of public transportation for employees in accordance with the provisions of Pub. L. 101-509 and these regulations. If the program meets the requirements of the statute and these regulations and is approved by the Committee on Rules and Administration, any Senate office served by such transit system may provide benefits to its employees pursuant to these regulations.

(B) Procedures

(1) A qualified program operating in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area that permits purchase arrangements similar to those provided by the Metro Pool program shall participate in the Senate program in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 6.

(2) A qualified program operating in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area that does not have purchase arrangements similar to Metro Pool, or a qualified program located outside that metropolitan area, that permits purchases directly by an office, may make arrangements for purchase of media directly with a participating office. Such an office may provide for direct payment to that system and shall submit the certification in accordance with Section 7.

(3) In the case of a qualified program that does not permit purchase arrangements as provided in paragraphs (1) or (2) above, an office may provide for reimbursement to a qualified employee and shall submit a certification in accordance with Section 7.

(C) Documentation

The following documentation must accompany a voucher submitted under paragraph 8(B)(2) or (3):

(1) A copy of the Rules Committee approval, in accordance with section 8(A), with the first voucher submitted for that transit program, provided subsequent vouchers identify the transit program.

(2) The certification.

(3) Proof of purchase of the fare media.

(D) Voucher Guidance

In the case of a Senator's state office, reimbursement for payment to either a qualified transit system, or a qualified employee shall be from the Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account (SOP & OEA) as a home state office expense on a seven part voucher.

In the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, reimbursement for payment to either a qualified transit system, or a qualified employee shall be as follows:

(1) in the case of a Senator's office from the SOP & OEA as an "other official expense" (discretionary expense).

(2) in the case of a Senate committee or administrative office as an "Other" expense.

SEC. 9. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

Any circumstances not covered under these regulations shall be considered on application to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SEC. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.

These regulations shall take effect on the first day of the month following date of approval.

REVEREND WILLIAM WEBB

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Rev. William Webb, a strong and compassionate leader in the Reno-Sparks community.

Throughout his life, Reverend Webb has demonstrated tremendous perseverance, dedication, and generosity. Born and raised in a small, poor town in southern Arkansas, he was the only student in his eighth grade class to continue on to high school. Despite facing racism and segregation, Reverend Webb remained strongly committed to his education, attending Philander Smith College and receiving his master's degree at Virginia Union University.

Reverend Webb first came to Reno-Sparks area 40 years ago to serve as a minister at Second Baptist Church. His strong and energetic leadership has helped grow Second Baptist Church from a congregation of fifty church members to more than three hundred. Reverend Webb has also challenged his ministry and his community to serve those in need, organizing food drives and other charitable activities throughout his time in Northern Nevada. He has also served as president of the Nevada-California Interstate Missionary Baptist Convention for 22 years.

I am pleased to say that the City of Reno recently honored Reverend Webb's contributions to the community by renaming the roundabout at Clear Acre and Wedekin Road, William C. Webb Circle. Reverend Webb has led a distinguished life and career, and please join me in thanking him for his tremendous service to the Reno-Sparks community.

SPARKS, NV

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate the founding of Sparks, NV 100 years ago this week.

In 1904, the Southern Pacific Railroad wanted to straighten its route through northern Nevada. This required them to move from their switching yard at Wadsworth to another location, a hamlet originally known as Harriman. Many residents moved with the railroad, and they brought most of Wadsworth's buildings with them.

Shortly thereafter, the city changed its name to Sparks, in honor of John Sparks, who served as Nevada governor from 1903 to 1908 and who owned a ranch near the city.

Unlike many cities of the day, Sparks was a planned community with wide streets, ample parks, and impressive buildings. As the railroad's power waned in the 1950s, these traits allowed Sparks to become a picturesque, residential community.

Ground was broken for the first hotel in Sparks in 1903. The building was named after its first owner, Charles Walstab, and was the only hotel in Sparks until 1911. In 1920, the hotel was purchased by Frank Gardella and Frank Pasutti who changed the hotel's name to the Lincoln. People came from far and wide for the Lincoln's home-style meals, including chicken and ravioli. Many old-time patrons remember when it served free lunches and

beer cost only a nickel. The building still stands on Victorian Avenue, and today is home to several small businesses.

The Soroptimist Club International was founded in Sparks in 1958. The Sparks' Soroptimist club was formed to make a difference for women, focusing their extensive efforts on volunteer service in the community. They sponsored the Miss Nevada Pageant and Nevada Girl's State. Additionally, the Soroptimists awarded scholarships to young women graduating from Sparks High School, raised money for books at the Sparks Library, and donated to the Gray Ladies Indigent Fund for the State Hospital.

However, no history of Sparks would be complete without mentioning John Ascuaga, a developer and entrepreneur who built Sparks' first casino: the Nugget. In May of 1958, the Nugget's ambassador became a part of the town's fabric. The "Tall Cowboy" appropriately arrived on the railroad, in pieces. When assembled, Last Chance Joe, stood thirty-two feet tall at the entrance to the Nugget.

I would also like to recognize Tony Armstrong, the former mayor of Sparks who died in January of this year. Tony's personality, his vision for the city, his management skills, and his deep humanity made him a terrific mayor and an outstanding man. It was Tony who first contacted me about the Sparks' centennial. I miss Tony and it is fitting to recognize him on this day, which he would have enjoyed so much. I wish his successor, Gino Martini, all the best and look forward to working with him on projects important to Sparks.

Finally, it is remarkable that Sparks has retained its Victorian architecture and charm. The city beckons to us as a relic of a gentler and more beautiful time. It is truly one of the jewels of northern Nevada.

A century has passed since the City of Sparks was founded. I hope you will join me in celebrating this lovely Nevada community's centennial.

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.

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, a participant in a Davis, CA, gay-pride parade was assaulted last summer. The apparent motivation for the attack was the sexual orientation of the victim.

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.

NOPEC

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I, again, join in the introduction of our NOPEC bill. I am sincerely sorry that this bill has not yet become law, and I hope that the situation we face as a nation will lead the Senate to recognize the toll that the OPEC producers are exacting from the American people. As gasoline prices continue to skyrocket, exceeding \$2 a gallon in many communities, we must have a real correction. As heating oil prices have soared, the President needs to take notice. Without correction and containment, consumers across the nation will continue to suffer.

The relentless increases in gasoline prices are not the result of natural supply issues. Rather, they are largely due to market manipulation by OPEC, a cartel of those controlling production and supply of oil from the Middle East. When the Antitrust Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary held its hearing on gas prices last year, experts from several fields, both in and out of government, confirmed for us what we already suspected: The higher prices are due to the OPEC cartel that sets production quotas for its members and prevents the free market from setting crude oil prices. The testimony at that hearing revealed that most of the gasoline price increase can be explained by OPEC's unfair production quotas.

The artificial pricing scheme enforced by OPEC affects all of us, not the least of whom are hardworking Vermont farmers. As USDA's Cooperative Extension Office in New Hampshire recently found, the increasing energy costs may add \$5,000 or more to the total costs of operating a 100-head dairy operation in the Northeast. In addition, soaring prices have affected a variety of industries across the United States, and will likely force many Americans to make tough choices about family travel.

Over the last year, I have expressed concern that gasoline prices would simply continue to rise. I have hardly been alone in that belief, and I am sorry to say that my prediction has borne fruit. Sadly, that fruit is bitter for those forced to pay ever higher prices to go about their daily lives. This week, the average price for regular gasoline reached \$2.00 per gallon. Our economy, our farmers, and our families need relief now. They also need good policy. In the absence of White House leadership, Congress should provide law enforcement the tools needed to fight anti-competitive practices.

If OPEC were simply a foreign business engaged in this type of behavior, it would already be subject to American antitrust law. It is wrong to let OPEC producers off the hook just because their anticompetitive practices

come with the seal of approval of the member nations. I urge the Senate to support this bill and to say "No" to OPEC.

SAVING THE IRRAWADDY DOLPHIN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue which, while not one that you would likely read about on the front page of the newspapers, is important nonetheless. It concerns the alarming rate of deterioration of the habitat of the Irrawaddy Dolphin in Southeast Asia. Recent statistics indicate that there are fewer than 100 Irrawaddy left in the world.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has placed the Irrawaddy Dolphin on its list of critically endangered species. The primary reasons for this sharp decline include destructive fishing practices, such as the use of dynamite or electric current, and mercury runoff from gold mines. These practices are leading to the extinction of an entire species.

Why should we care? Perhaps a quote from President John Kennedy provides the best answers to this question. In a 1963 address at American University, President Kennedy said ". . . in the final analysis, our most basic common link, is that we all inhabit this small planet, we all breathe the same air, we all cherish our children's futures, and we are all mortal."

I know every Member of the Senate wants to make the world a better place for our children and grandchildren. I am almost as certain that ensuring the survival of the Irrawaddy dolphin, an extraordinary species, would be something that we could do to help achieve this goal.

Congress has spoken on this issue. In the Senate report that accompanied last year's Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, Congress directed the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, to devise a strategy to help reverse the habitat decline of the Irrawaddy dolphin.

Some important nongovernmental organizations are already working on this issue, including the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Bronx Zoo in their Species Survival Program partnership. I hope USAID's strategy, which is due shortly, will be a first step in forming a public-private partnership that will prevent the Irrawaddy dolphin from going the way of the dodo and the passenger pigeon.

Once a species is gone, it is gone forever. We need to be sure this does not happen.

MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK STUDY ACT

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I briefly would like to say how pleased I am that the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Study Act was enacted in the last Congress. That Act,