

He used his 26-year papacy to spread the message of freedom and peace to all corners of the world, and did so with vigor. His international trips always served a higher purpose, for he always sought to bring people together as equals in God's eyes. At one large gathering of youth, the faithful chanted, "We love you; we love you." When they quieted, the Pope humbly responded, "I love you more." He also inspired open communication among the world's faiths, as the first Pope to enter the main Jewish synagogue in Rome and the first to enter a mosque.

When he was selected to be the church's 264th Pope, his first words to the public were: "Be not afraid." Indeed, Pope John Paul II taught people around the world they need not fear those who try to oppress, nor fear those who might be different. As the world mourns his passing, we all should try to heed his words.

PRESIDENT VIKTOR
YUSHCHENKO'S ADDRESS TO
CONGRESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, addressed a joint meeting of the United States Congress. I was honored to be part of the committee that escorted President Yushchenko into the House Chamber.

President Yushchenko's courage and commitment to democracy have inspired thousands of people in Illinois, and millions more in this country and throughout the world. In Illinois, we have a sizable Ukrainian-American population, particularly in Chicago. My son lives in a section of Chicago known as Ukrainian Village, and soon after President Yushchenko's election, the neighborhood was covered with orange ribbons in celebration.

Yesterday, President Yushchenko and his wife, Kathy Chumachenko-Yushchenko, a native of Chicago, visited the Windy City. I am glad they had the chance to experience our Illinois hospitality during their brief trip to the United States.

Just last month, I traveled to Ukraine as part of a bipartisan congressional delegation. There, I met with President Yushchenko and members of his government, and had the chance to see for myself a nation newly aglow in the light of democracy.

The story of President Yushchenko's election as the President of Ukraine is a story of great personal courage. It is a story of the power of democratic values and ideals. It is a story of what can be accomplished by individuals, united in peaceful protest against corruption, cronyism, and unfettered power.

President Yushchenko was elected as President of Ukraine despite a powerful array of opposing forces which, in pursuit of their ambitions, were willing to obstruct free assembly, free speech, and a free and fair democratic election. He ran for President at great risk to his own life. And he prevailed.

President Yushchenko spoke today with optimism and with hope for Ukraine's future as a democratic country. He said of his country, "We want a government of the people, by the people, and for the people." This is a desire that we as Americans understand and share. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and with President Yushchenko to help nurture the flame of democracy that has started to burn so brightly in Ukraine.

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 March 1, 2005, a man was found murdered in Daly City, CA. The victim, who was dressed in women's clothing, was found with multiple stab wounds to his chest and abdomen. Police have identified gender identity and sexual orientation as possible motives.

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.

ZIMBABWE ELECTIONS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise to express my concern regarding the recent election in Zimbabwe, which secured sweeping powers for the ruling ZANU-PF party. These results come as no surprise. In addition to reported irregularities on voting day itself, the ruling party had waged a campaign of intimidation, coercion, and institutional manipulation well in advance of the balloting in order to ensure victory.

Last month I joined Senator MCCAIN in writing to Secretary Rice, urging her to reaffirm the United States commitment to supporting genuine democratic processes and institutions in that troubled country. The U.S. needs a post-election strategy in Zimbabwe for supporting civil society, encouraging respect for civil and political rights, and bolstering the forces fighting against corruption.

We also need to continue to plan for the future. Once Zimbabwe's corrupt leadership finally released its grasp on power, the country will require substantial international assistance to turn around its devastating economic decline and to rebuild institutions,

such as the once-independent judiciary, so that the rule of law can be effectively restored. Too many Zimbabwean youths have been traumatized, pressed into service in brutal pro-ruling party militia forces, enduring serious abuse and then often becoming abusers themselves. These young men and women, too, will need support and assistance to find their way back on a path toward the futures they once dreamed of as children.

I hope that soon the people of Zimbabwe will be given a chance to freely express their will in a genuine democratic process that is free from manipulation, intimidation, and coercion. As we prepare ourselves to be good partners to the people of Zimbabwe when change finally does come, we must also take a hard look at the disappointing passivity of leaders in many southern African states who have failed to speak and act in support of basic human rights and the rule of law in their own neighborhood. These decisions raise real doubts about the commitment of these regional leaders to democracy, and over the long term, these failures threaten the prospects for stability and prosperity throughout the region. South Africa, with its painful history, its tremendous promise, and its special moral authority, might have been a powerful protector of the rights of the people of Zimbabwe. Instead, South Africa's leadership has chosen, time and again, to sweep repression and abuse in Zimbabwe under the rug and to lend support to a bullying President who would rather destroy his own country than accept the rule of law and let real power rest with the Zimbabwean people. This South African choice is perhaps one of the greatest disappointments of all.

The people of Zimbabwe have suffered through years of economic and political catastrophe. Those of us who have watched this decline feel tremendous frustration and real sadness as we observe what has happened to their country. But we must not surrender to hopelessness, and we must not give up. I continue to be deeply moved by the bravery and patriotism of Zimbabwean citizens who resist the state's repression, even at enormous personal cost. The United States must remain committed to working with them to ensure that the people of Zimbabwe succeed in their fight for freedom and genuine democracy.

BOY SCOUTS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an important institution in America that has contributed greatly to the quality of our youth and is very dear to my heart and the hearts of many here—the Boy Scouts of America.

For more than 90 years, the Scouts have supported our youth and helped produce some of the best and brightest leaders in our country—as many of my colleagues can attest—and I believe we

must reaffirm our support for the vital work they have done and continue to do. Like many of my friends here, I was a Boy Scout many years ago.

As a result of the great work they do, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of S. 642, the "Support Our Scouts Act of 2005", a bill that reinforces our strong commitment to the Boy Scouts.

In fact, I had at one time considered introducing my own bill on this very important matter. However, I was so pleased with the substance of this bill that I was proud to add my name as a cosponsor, and I thank my leader, Senator FRIST, for his efforts on this issue.

This bill addresses efforts by some groups to prevent federal agencies from supporting our Scouts. This bill would remove any doubts that Federal agencies can welcome Scouts and the great work they do from camping on Federal property to hosting the national jamboree every 4 years at Fort A. P. Hill.

As Senator FRIST has said, this legislation will specifically ensure that the Department of Defense can and will continue to provide Scouts the type of support it has provided in the past. Moreover, the Scouts would be permitted equal access to public facilities, forums, and programs that are open to a variety of other youth or community organizations.

Regrettably, as we all know, in recent years, the Boy Scouts have come under attack from aggressive liberal groups blatantly pushing their own social agendas.

In particular, Scouts have been the target of lawsuits by organizations that are more concerned with pushing these liberal agendas than sincerely helping our youth.

For instance, the Federal government is currently defending a lawsuit aimed at severing traditional ties between the Boy Scouts and the Departments of Defense and Housing and Urban Development.

What is more, Scouts have been excluded by certain State and local governments from utilizing public facilities, forums and programs, which are open to other groups.

It is certainly disappointing and, frankly, frustrating that we have reached a point where groups like the ACLU are far more interested in tearing down great institutions like the Boy Scouts than helping foster character and values in our young men.

I am tired of these tactics. It is very disturbing to me that these groups unabashedly attack organizations, regardless of the good they do or the support they have from the vast majority of Americans, simply to further their own subjective social agendas.

I for one, am saddened that the Boy Scouts of America has been the most recent target of these frivolous lawsuits. I reject any arguments that the Boy Scouts is anything but one of the greatest programs for character development and values-based leadership training in America today.

We must coalesce around those values that are so important to our soci-

ety. We should seek to aid, not impede, groups that promote values like duty to God and country, faith and family, and public service and sacrifice, which are deeply ingrained in the oath of every scout.

To fail to support such values would allow the very fabric of America, which has brought us to this great place in history, to be destroyed.

Today, with more than 3.2 million youth members, and more than 1.2 million adult volunteers, we can certainly say that the Boy Scouts of America has positively impacted the lives of generations of boys, preparing them to be men of great character and values. Remarkably, Boy Scout membership since 1910 totals more than 110 million.

I am proud to report that in Oklahoma we have a total youth participation of nearly 75,000 boys, and in Oklahoma City alone, we have about 7,000 adult volunteers.

These young men have helped serve communities all over our State with programs like Helping Hands for Heroes, program where Scouts help military families whose loved ones are serving overseas. These young men have cut grass, cleaned homes, taken out the garbage and walked dogs. What a great service for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines and their families. Our Boy Scouts have also to served as ushers and first aid responders at the University of Oklahoma football games for more than 50 years.

Notably, Scouts in my State have also shared a long and proud history of cooperation and partnership with military installations in Oklahoma.

Given all this, I hope my colleagues will join me in defending this organization and others like it. We must not be afraid to support our youth and organizations like the Boy Scouts that support them.

LIVING STRONGER, LONGER

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize National Public Health Week and its important theme of "Living Stronger, Longer." Today, seniors are leading active and healthy lifestyles unmatched by previous generations. They are working longer, eating better, and utilizing medical advances that detect and treat illnesses before it is too late. But as our aging population doubles within the next decade, new challenges await us in ensuring that supply can meet an increasing demand.

This week marks the 10th Annual National Public Health Week, focusing on Living Stronger, Longer. I am proud to join the organizations involved that advocate for seniors every day and bring vital issues to the forefront during this week-long public information campaign promoting long and healthy lives for all Americans.

Public health advancements and new treatment options are enabling Americans to live longer and longer, but many older Americans still continue to

suffer from preventable and treatable health problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. Americans can prevent and treat many of the common health problems that hinder the enjoyment of later years if they have access to affordable health care.

I know that as I travel throughout Wisconsin, speaking to seniors' groups and individuals, I often hear their concerns about the rising costs of health care and prescription drugs. As the lead Democrat on the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am committed to protecting seniors' access to quality health care and I am committed to making sure that Medicare is preserved as a vital health program for seniors.

One of the key components to living longer, healthier lives is access to life-saving prescription drugs. I have long been concerned about the high cost of prescription drugs, which can make it hard for Wisconsinites to afford the medicines they need to stay healthy. Today, Americans pay substantially higher prices for the same medicines that are far less expensive in many other countries. It is not fair to ask Americans to pay higher prices for the same medicines that cost a fraction of the price in other countries. That is why I support legislation to allow Americans to take advantage of lower drug prices found in other countries by legalizing the importation of FDA-approved drugs from other countries. I also support legislation to change a troublesome feature of the new Medicare prescription drug law that prohibits the Government from utilizing the tremendous purchasing power of the Medicare Program to reduce prices.

I am also concerned about the rising premiums seniors are facing in the Medicare Program. In addition to lowering the cost of prescription drugs, I will also continue to fight inefficiencies in Medicare and work to make Medicare affordable and fair for all Wisconsin seniors.

But there also benefits that are available through Medicare that seniors simply are not utilizing. In fact, one in three older Americans do not get all recommended screenings. In Wisconsin, only 44.4 percent of men and 40.6 percent of women 65 and older are getting the selected preventive services provided, recommended, and covered by Medicare. We need to encourage seniors to take advantage of the opportunities that are available to take the steps necessary to stay strong and healthy longer.

We are lucky enough to live in the most medically and economically advanced country in the world, where we have the ability to protect our citizens, prevent illness and disease, and plan ahead for a more prosperous future. There is work to be done, but as long as we can work together, solutions can be obtained and Americans' quality of life improved for generations to come.