

very hard to ferret out fraud, waste, and abuse at the Pentagon and stop it. I do it because I don't want to see a single tax dollar wasted.

Colonel Hackworth attacked the very same problem but from a different angle.

As in everything he did, he always looked at a problem from a common soldier's perspective.

As I said, his main concern was incompetence and corruption among some senior officers in the Pentagon. He called them "perfumed princes." These were some of the same officers he saw come and go in Vietnam. They came to Vietnam to get their "tickets punched." They got their "tickets punched" by commanding a battalion or brigade for a shortened tour of duty before rotating home to the Pentagon for promotion.

To the hardcore soldier like Colonel Hackworth, "ticket punching" in Vietnam translated into unnecessary casualties on the battlefield. The wasting of one soldier's life produced real fury inside this man. He could not—and would not—tolerate it.

One illustrative incident, which occurred in Vietnam, is described in his book "About Face."

During a very intense combat operation, a "perfumed prince" riding in a helicopter overhead issued an order to a unit under Colonel Hackworth's command—without Colonel Hackworth's knowledge or approval. That order resulted in a significant loss of life in one of Colonel Hackworth's units.

Colonel Hackworth believed that those casualties were avoidable and unnecessary.

When he returned to home base, he sought out that officer, put a 45 caliber weapon to his head, and threatened to kill him if he ever did anything like that again.

That is Colonel Hackworth's own account of what happened on that day so long ago.

Colonel Hackworth loved his troops above all else and would go to any length to protect them from harm and abuse.

His lifelong commitment to the common soldier was the driving force behind the stories he produced as a reporter with Newsweek and other publications.

In Colonel Hackworth's mind, the terrible loss of life in Vietnam had its origins in a disease that he set out to cure—the gross incompetence and corruption—that he perceived at the highest echelons in the Pentagon.

Colonel Hackworth was determined to wipe it out and right a wrong.

Over the years, we collaborated on a number of investigations. The one I remember best is the one involving Air Force General Joseph Ashy in 1994-95.

Colonel Hackworth conducted his own investigation. He gathered the facts and the documents. I, in turn, referred Colonel Hackworth's allegations to the inspector general, IG, for review.

This is what Colonel Hackworth reported in the press:

General Ashy flew himself, his aide and family cat from Italy to Colorado aboard a 200-seat Air Force plane; he flew his wife round-trip on an Air Force VIP aircraft from Colorado to Washington; and he made palatial renovations at his headquarters.

The IG concluded that General Ashy's "wasteful escapades" cost the taxpayers \$424,602.00.

Colonel Hackworth found out about General Ashy's "escapades" from one of his beloved soldiers who was denied a seat—and free ride home—on Ashy's airplane.

Colonel Hackworth's comments were as follows:

The taxpayers got ripped-off for almost a half a million bucks by a member of our military elite and virtually nothing is being done about it. . . . The Air Force spinmeisters lied through their teeth about what General Ashy did. . . . Besides being a blatant waste of money, this incident is about deception and the art of diffusing responsibility. . . . Ashy was fined a mere \$5,020.00 and continues to have four stars and his finger on the nuclear button.

General Ashy wrote out a check for the fine and sent it to Air Force Headquarters on June 26, 1995. However, instead of depositing his check at the bank, the check was stashed in a safe in Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall's office—for what I suspect was permanent safekeeping. At my request, the IG began making new inquiries and the check finally went to the bank on September 15, 1995.

This great American soldier told us—in "plain old English"—what he expected from the top brass at the Pentagon. He expected them to lead by example. If they failed his leadership and integrity test at headquarters, he believed they would fail on the battlefield.

His pronouncements were blunt, for sure. They were almost always harsh and sometimes coarse. But they always conveyed an important lesson tempered by battlefield experiences. So I listened and learned. His opinions on the Pentagon brass had credibility in my book. He had put them to the ultimate test on so many distant battlefields. That was good enough for me.

The lessons taught by this great American soldier are lessons that will stand the test of time. Setting the example has been the most powerful element of leadership since the beginning of time. Colonel Hackworth kept going back to those enduring principles. As a Nation, we must do the same. We must rely on those ideas. They are too important to be forgotten. They must be followed.

Colonel Hackworth was a constant and forceful reminder of just how important those principles really are.

The memory of Colonel Hackworth and all that he stood for lives on in our hearts and minds.

Colonel Hackworth has left us. His remains will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery on May 31. But he will not be forgotten. He will never fade away.

COLONELONEL DAVID H.  
HACKWORTH

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a true American hero, COL. David H. Hackworth, who spent his last years in Connecticut. Colonel Hackworth was one the most legendary and highly decorated soldiers of the U.S. Army. As Memorial Day approaches, there is no better time to remember the sacrifices, courage and tactical genius of this legendary soldier who spent more than half a century fighting on the world's most dangerous battlefields. As World War II was coming to a close, a 14-year-old David Hackworth lied about his age to join the Merchant Marine and a year later joined the U.S. Army—spending the next 26 years fighting our nation's battles. A true leader, "Hack" as he was known, received a battlefield commission in Korea to become the Army's youngest captain and was promoted in Vietnam to the Army's youngest full colonel. Three times he was nominated for the Medal of Honor. His decorations are numerous and include the Army Medal of Valor, the Distinguished Service Cross, ten Silver Stars, eight Bronze Stars and the United Nations Peace Medal. But the awards of which he was proudest are his eight purple hearts and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Mr. President, As you know, there is only one way to get this badge: serve 90 days in a front-line infantry unit under fire and survive.

In just one example of his bravery, Colonel Hackworth got out on the strut of a helicopter to drag to safety his men who were pinned down and facing certain death. It is no wonder, Colonel Hackworth has so many supporters.

But these statistics do not capture the Colonel Hackworth, the iconoclastic straight talker, who lead from the front and spoke from his heart. One of the most telling stories about Colonel Hackworth's leadership was his transformation of the 4/39 Infantry Battalion from a demoralized outfit into an effective counter-insurgency fighting force that routed enemy units in the jungles of Vietnam. Colonel Hackworth's training methods and tactics were so successful, he wrote them down in a book "The Vietnam Primer" that is still read by commanders today.

GEN. Hal Moore, the coauthor of "We Were Soldiers Once and Young," called him "the Patton of Vietnam," while General Creighton Abrams, the last American commander in that disastrous war, described him as "the best battalion commander I ever saw in the United States Army."

Gruff and full of purple prose, Colonel Hackworth ran afoul of the Army's top leadership and retired following a confrontation in which he said in 1971 that the Vietnam War was hopeless. Often called the champion of the common soldier, "Hack" spoke truth to power. After leaving the service, Colonel Hackworth launched himself into new careers as a journalist, businessman, restaurateur and best-selling author as

he cast his sharp and experienced eye on the military-industrial complex. He always cast a glaring spotlight on concerns when the "grunts" were not getting the equipment they needed to do their jobs.

I extend my deepest condolences to Colonel Hackworth's wife, Eilhys England, and his many children, step-children, grandchildren and step-grandchildren. But of all the tributes I know will come Colonel Hackworth's way, I think the tribute he would appreciate most will be from the average soldier whose loyalty he earned in combat and whose welfare became his life's cause in his retirement, for he knew they are the men and women who are out on point securing our Nation's freedom.

#### 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.

A 35-year-old gay man was walking to his Boston home when three young men approached him, knocked him to the ground, and repeatedly kicked him in the face. Although he was yelling for help and near several homes, no one came to his aid. The perpetrators fled and left the victim with multiple contusions and internal bleeding in his face. Neither possessions nor money was stolen.

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.

#### REPEALING D.C.'S LOCAL GUN SAFETY LAWS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, legislation has been introduced that would repeal nearly every gun safety law in the District of Columbia. Sadly, the bill was introduced during the celebration of National Police Week and just days after 153 law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2004 were honored at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

The misnamed "District of Columbia Personal Protection Act" would repeal local laws in Washington, DC that ban the sale and possession of unregistered firearms, require firearm registration, impose commonsense safe storage requirements, and ban semiautomatic weapons in the District. Should this bill become law, those who live and

work in our Nation's capital as well as tourists and other visitors would face a greater threat of gun violence.

In a statement last week, DC Mayor Anthony Williams said, "I am incensed by any congressional proposal that uses District residents as pawns. I am incensed by any proposal that assaults Home Rule. And I am incensed by any proposal that is an insult to the memory of the people who have died in this city due to gun violence—in particular the three children who have died from gun violence this year."

Instead of interfering in local affairs in Washington, DC, the Senate should focus its energies on legislation on improving the safety of the families and communities across the Nation. The Senate has yet to consider several common sense gun safety measures during this Congress. Among these are proposals that would reauthorize the 1994 assault weapons ban, prohibit the sale of the Five-Seven armor-piercing handgun, and help investigators working to prevent attacks by terrorists using high powered weapons. I urge the Senate to take up and pass these bills to make our Nation safer.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ROBERT FOUST

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to an exceptional member of my staff who is retiring at the end of this month after 33 years of service to the Senate.

Bob has worked in the Senate for a period of 40 years, starting as an intern in the 1960s, and then working full time for Senator Claiborne Pell for 19 years from 1970 to 1989. After taking 2 years to travel the world, it was my great good fortune that Bob volunteered to join my staff in the spring of 1991.

At the time, Bob told me he was looking to complete 20 years of Senate service. I do not think either he or I thought that he would be with me for 14 years. But I could not be more pleased that Bob decided to stay.

During his tenure in my office, he has worked on education, veterans, and international affairs issues. His work on all these issues has been outstanding. On veterans and education issues, in particular, he has developed a long list of legislative victories both small and large.

Bob has a gift for seeing legislative opportunities. One example I will never forget involves the V-chip. For years, I had heard from parents, educators, health care professionals and religious leaders about their concerns regarding the influence of television violence on young people. In response, Bob helped me form a steering committee of interested individuals and organizations to talk about possible approaches to help shield children from gratuitous violence on television. And we developed V-chip legislation. During the debate on the 1996 telecommunications bill, I offered my amendment to require that the V-chip be included in TVs so that

parents would have the ability to block out violent shows. When I offered the amendment, the so-called experts told us not to push forward—that the amendment couldn't pass. But Bob advised me to move forward. And when the roll was called, the amendment passed by a strong 73 to 26 margin, and was then enacted into law.

Bob's attention to North Dakota's veterans has paid off in greatly improved facilities around the State. When Bob learned that the VA was considering closing VA facilities that were not up to current standards, he alerted me and helped me lead the fight for a \$12 million renovation at the Fargo VA Medical Center. These renovations, which will be finished later this year, have dramatically improved the facility for our veterans. Bob has also been very concerned about the long travel times facing the many North Dakota veterans who live in rural areas. From his first day in the office, he pushed hard to expand services for rural veterans through the Community Based Outpatient Clinics, CBOCs. To date, as a result of Bob's hard work, we have secured three CBOCs at Minot, Grafton and Bismarck. And the VA's CARES, Capital Assets Realignment for Enhanced Services, Commission has approved five new clinics at Williston, Jamestown, Devils Lake, Grand Forks AFB, and Dickinson. Finally, Bob has had great compassion for the most vulnerable among our veterans—homeless veterans—and has constantly looked for ways to help them. Most recently, he worked with Centre, Inc. in Fargo to shepherd through a \$1.6 million grant to renovate a facility that will house a 48-bed shelter for homeless veterans.

On education, he was constantly looking for ways to help North Dakota's teachers, whether it was bringing information technology to classrooms or advocating for appropriate implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act. Bob conceived of the Rural Education Achievement Program and built a coalition that helped me enact this important legislation during the 106th Congress. Almost 80 percent of North Dakota school districts have 600 students or less. Under the REAP program, small, rural school districts are entitled to consolidate funding from Federal education programs to make more efficient use of the funds. In the first 3 years of the REAP program, more than 270 North Dakota schools benefitted from approximately \$2.7 million in funding.

Bob's commitment to education also carried over to the intern program. As he had in Senator Pell's office, Bob volunteered to coordinate my Washington intern program. Bob devoted significant time and effort to ensuring that interns in my office had a terrific learning experience. In fact, Bob's example has inspired dozens of former interns to seek careers in public service. Interns from 10, 20 and even 30 years ago stop by frequently just to say hello