

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.

Last year, a 19-year-old gay man was bludgeoned with a pipe while standing on a street corner in Queens, NY.

I believe that the Governments 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.●

THE FIFTY CALIBER SNIPER WEAPON REGULATION ACT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in recent years, there has been numerous reports regarding .50-caliber sniper rifles and the danger they pose to our communities and homeland security. It is important that we take action to prevent potential terrorists and violent criminals from having easy access to these dangerous weapons.

The .50-caliber sniper rifle is a favorite weapon of militaries around the world. According to a report released by the Violence Policy Center last year, a .50-caliber sniper rifle is capable of accurately hitting a target over 1,500 yards away, and the ammunition available for the rifle includes armor-piercing, incendiary, and explosive bullets. The report also cites the U.S. Army's manual on urban combat, which states that .50-caliber sniper rifles are designed to attack bulk fuel tanks and other high-value targets from a distance using "their ability to break through all but the thickest shielding material." According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, one of the leading manufacturers of the .50-caliber sniper rifle has also promoted their rifle's ability to destroy "multimillion dollar aircraft with a single hit delivered to a vital area."

While these capabilities may be desirable for military purposes, the .50-caliber sniper rifle provides the same capabilities to terrorists who may use them to bring down civilian aircraft, attack critical infrastructure, or kill innocent Americans. Currently, these powerful weapons are subject to only minimal Federal regulation and are treated the same as other long rifles including shotguns, hunting rifles, and smaller target rifles. A loophole in the law, commonly known as the "gun show loophole," also allows for .50-caliber sniper rifles to be purchased without even a minimum background check.

I have cosponsored the Fifty-Caliber Sniper Weapon Regulation Act introduced by Senator FEINSTEIN. This bill would reclassify .50-caliber rifles under the National Firearms Act, NFA, treating them the same as other high-powered or especially lethal firearms like machine guns and sawed off shotguns.

Among other things, reclassification of .50-caliber sniper rifles under the NFA would subject them to new registration requirements. Future transfers or sales of .50-caliber sniper rifles would have to be conducted through a licensed dealer with an accompanying background check. In addition, the rifle being sold would have to be registered with Federal authorities. The additional requirements would help ensure that these dangerous weapons do not fall into the hands of potential terrorists or violent criminals.

We should recognize the extraordinary capabilities of .50-caliber sniper rifles and the danger they pose to our homeland security. I urge my colleagues to take up and pass the Fifty-Caliber Sniper Weapon Regulation Act to help protect our Nation from those who may wish to do us harm.

CHUCK LUDLAM

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to express my gratitude and, truly, this country's gratitude, to Chuck Ludlam of my staff, for his 33-year career in government service and public policy. He's retiring on June 24, 40 years to the month after his first job on Capitol Hill as a "Stanford in Government" intern in the House of Representatives.

Thomas Jefferson once asked the question: What duty does a citizen owe to the government that secures the society in which he lives?

Answering his own question, Jefferson said: "A nation that rests on the will of the people must also depend on individuals to support its institutions if it is to flourish. Persons qualified for public service should feel an obligation to make that contribution."

Chuck has answered that call—a call as old as our Republic—with dedicated service to our Nation and continued service to our world.

Chuck began his public service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal in 1968–1970. After his Senate retirement, he and his wife, Paula Hirschhoff, also a 1960's Peace Corps volunteer, in Kenya, will serve again as Peace Corps volunteers, in Senegal. This full circle expresses well their commitment to service.

The professionalism and accomplishments of congressional staff are often unsung and even unappreciated. While it is difficult to summarize a career as varied and distinguished as Chuck's, let me touch on a few highlights.

I have known Chuck since I arrived in the Senate in 1989, and he has served as my economic counsel since 2001. Following the anthrax attack on the Senate in October 2001, Chuck went to work on biodefense and infectious disease policy issues. BioShield I, enacted last July, was in significant part due to his work, and he has now helped Senator HATCH, Senator BROWNBACK, and me fashion BioShield II, S. 975, a visionary tour de force on the full range of issues we must address to prepare

for a bioterror attack or infectious disease outbreak. This bill provides a prescription for how to prepare ourselves for these threats to our national health and well being. Now it is incumbent on us to enact it. It is hard to describe the importance to our country of moving this legislation. It is an area of extreme future risk not only for ourselves but for all nations. Chuck developed a profound view of what must be done to deter this nightmare, a nightmare not only of bio attacks but of infectious disease in general, and has been relentlessly pressing this problem and its solutions onto our national policy agenda since 2001. It has been an exceptionally dedicated and unique legislative effort and it underscores the kind of remarkable role talented and driven Senate staff like Chuck can play assisting Senator policymakers.

Chuck had a long and very special working education that has enabled him to serve in this Senate policy-developer role. Before his service in my office, Chuck served as chief tax counsel on the Senate Small Business Committee, 1985–1993, with Senator Dale Bumpers; as legal counsel on the Joint Economic Committee, 1982–1985, with Congressman Gillis Long; as legal counsel on the Carter White House Domestic Policy Staff, 1979–1981, working with Si Lazarus and Stu Eizenstat; as counsel to the Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Subcommittee on Separation of Powers of the Senate Judiciary Committee, 1975–1979, with Senator James Abourezk; and as a trial attorney in the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission, 1972–1975. In addition, he served as vice president for Government Relations, Biotechnology Industry Organization, 1993–2000, and Counsel, Musick, Peeler and Garrett, 1981–1982).

During his long career on Capitol Hill, Chuck has brought his strong talents to bear on a wide range of legislative issues. While on my staff, these ranged from Federal fiscal responsibility and honest government accounting, S. 1915; to building assets for the poor, S. 476; to promoting U.S.–China educational and cultural engagement; S. 1117; to U.S. economic competitiveness policy, S. 2747; and, as I mentioned, to enacting Project BioShield, Public Law 108–276.

Long before joining me, Chuck worked to establish the Office of Senate Legal Counsel, Public Law 95–521; to defeat problematic Airline Noise legislation in 1978; to enact the first law on the subject of organizational conflict of interest, Public Law 95–70; to enact the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Public Law 96–354; to save the tax exemption for the bonds for non-profit hospitals and schools, Public Law 97–248; enact the Patent Reform Act of 1999, Public Law 106–113; to enact the first law banning genetic discrimination, Public Law 104–191; to make permanent the Orphan Drug Tax Credit, Public Law 104–188 and 105–34; and to

defeat attempts to criminalize some stem cell research in 1997–1998.

We know Chuck to be a passionate and tenacious advocate, a dedicated mentor to the talented legislative fellows who have worked for him, an adventurer who continues to trek over some of the most forbidding and fascinating parts of the planet, a loyal friend to many in our office, someone who is always searching for the “big idea-big picture” as a visionary policy developer, and a generous human being with a sense of humor. As a Congressional Staffer, he has always kept his focus on the public interest, undistracted by partisan concerns, and I found I could always count on hearing his frank and perceptive perspective on what would be the right policy for the country.

Chuck is completing an oral history of his unusual and remarkable Senate career, based on interviews with the Office of the Senate Historian, which has been transcribed and will be available on line. This history describes the challenges, skills and tactics of a Capitol Hill staffer who has fought in the political trenches over forty years.

Chuck hopes that this history will encourage young people to consider careers in public service. He’s served as the principal advisor and mentor for 25 years to the “Stanford in Government” program. He was one of 100 alumni awarded medallions to honor their service to Stanford University during centennial celebrations of the University’s founding in 1991; the headquarters for “Stanford in Government” at the Haas Center for Public Service is named after him.

We wish Chuck and Paula well in their venture in Africa. We will miss Chuck in the office but we know that he’s following one of his great dreams, and starting on a remarkable and courageous new round of public service. My office and I are grateful for his dedicated service to our office, to the Senate, and to our Nation, as well as for his friendship.

Somewhere right now Jefferson and our Founding Fathers are looking down and smiling proud that our Nation still produces men and women like Chuck and Paula.

Congratulations Chuck. Keep in touch and keep teaching us. We eagerly await your reports from Africa.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NEW MEXICO JUNIOR COLLEGE BASEBALL TEAM

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the New Mexico Junior College baseball team from Hobbs, NM on winning the 2005 National Junior College World Series. This is a tournament that involves baseball teams from junior colleges across the United States. The Thunderbirds swept to the national title with a perfect record of 5-0 in tournament

play. Their hard work and dedication is a perfect example of what it takes to win a national championship. This is the first national championship in New Mexico Junior College history.

I would also like to recognize Coach Ray Birmingham for winning the Coach of the Year award, his seventh in 15 years. The loyalty that Coach Birmingham engenders in his players is both heart-warming and inspiring. Several of Coach Birmingham’s players won awards as well. Among the outstanding honors were Renny Osuna, who was chosen for the Preston Walker MVP Award; Brian Flores, who was selected as Outstanding Pitcher; and Corey Zimmerman, who was named as Best Defensive Player.

Mr. President, fans lined the streets in Lovington and Tatum as the bus carrying the team passed through. A large group of proud supporters met the team when the bus rolled onto the campus in Hobbs on Monday. It was that kind of community support, along with the determination, skill and work ethic of the team, that swept the Thunderbirds to victory. I congratulate New Mexico Junior College on its great accomplishment.●

HONORING MARY BARDEN

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mary Barden, as she is recognized for her scholastic achievements on National History Day.

Mary, a student at Coventry High School in Coventry, RI, was one of 17 students chosen out of a half million across America, to display and present her history project at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. Mary’s project is titled “Cesar Chavez: Understanding the Chicano Farmworkers Need for Justice.” The National History Day program allows students to create exhibits, documentaries, and performances, by using their critical thinking and research skills in the subject of history.

I strongly support the National History Day program. A basic knowledge of history is essential for our Nation’s children to become informed participants in our democracy, and this national observance promotes history education in Rhode Island and throughout the Nation. This year, National History Day celebrates its 25th anniversary as a national organization.

I congratulate Mary as she is honored for her presentation, and commend her for her dedication and commitment. I join with the citizens of Rhode Island in wishing Mary well in all her future endeavors.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOLLEY, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On June 26, the residents of Tolley, ND, will celebrate a proud history.

Tolley is a small town in the northwest part of the State, with a population of 41. Despite its size, Tolley holds an important place in North Dakota’s history. It was founded in 1905 by Eli C. Tolley, a prominent developer and official with the Soo Line Railroad Company. As one report from the period indicates, people were so excited to start the town that they moved in 15 buildings without even having purchased lots on which to place them. Soon after, rail lines were laid through Tolley, and the town began to prosper. Within a year and a half, the residents of Tolley had built general stores, blacksmiths, restaurants, hotels, churches, and hardware stores.

Through the years, Tolley has exemplified true North Dakota perseverance. Despite suffering from a scarcity of water, countless fires, and outbreaks of smallpox and the Spanish flu, the people of Tolley have always remained loyal to this great community. During World War I, many of the men left their families and farms to fight for our country. Sadly, many did not return, yet the community remained strong. In 1920, the boys high school basketball team held its first practice, and in 1921 the homes and businesses in Tolley were lit by electricity for the first time. In 1951, through the generous efforts of local residents, the first organized fire department began serving the community. These stories from the history of Tolley serve as a remarkable example of ingenuity and perseverance for all of us.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Tolley, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Tolley and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Tolley that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Tolley has had a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMENIA, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. On June 10 and 11, the residents of Amenia, ND, celebrated their community’s founding.

Amenia is a small town in the eastern part of North Dakota, with a population just under 100. Despite its size, Amenia holds an important place in the State’s history. Amenia in 1880 when the Northern Pacific Railroad established a station and a settlement grew around it. Eban Chaffee of the Amenia Sharon Land Co., on whose home the station was actually built, called the new settlement Amenia.

The post office was established on January 20, 1880, and Edwin McNeil became the first postmaster of the newly