

After 1986, illegal immigrant population tripled from 2.7 million aliens, to 4 million aliens in 1996, to 8 million aliens in 2000, to an estimated 12 million illegal aliens today.

In that time, the Congress continued to enact amnesty after amnesty, waiving the Immigration Act for lawbreakers. The result is always the same: For every group of illegal aliens granted amnesty, a bigger group enters the country hoping to be similarly rewarded.

The pending substitute amendment embodies this same flawed model. It's more of the same: More amnesties, more guest worker programs, more unfunded mandates on our immigration agencies. We ought to be focusing on how to limit the incentives for illegal immigration, and erase the contradictions in our immigration policies that encourage individuals on both sides of the border to flout the law and get away with it.

What's backwards about the pending substitute amendment is that it is actually rewarding illegal aliens. It rewards illegal behavior. It authorizes illegal aliens to work in the country. It grants illegal aliens a path to citizenship. It pardons employers who illegally employ unauthorized workers. It even repeals provisions in current law designed to deny cheaper, in-state tuition rates to illegal aliens.

The pending amendment is a big welcome mat for illegal immigrants. It is a misguided and dangerous proposal that would doom this Congress to the failures of previous Congresses.

The economist John Maynard Keynes once described the qualification for an economist as being the ability to study the present, in the light of the past, for the purpose of looking into the future. Patrick Henry echoed those sentiments more than a century earlier when he said:

I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past.

Our Nation's experience shows that amnesties do not work. They are dangerous proposals that reward and encourage illegal immigration. Our experience shows that we cannot play games with our border security or American lives could be lost.

I will oppose the Specter-Leahy substitute amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a

period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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 18, 2006, in Savannah, GA, Travis McLain, was beaten by Charles Pickett in what appears to be a crime motivated by hate. McLain suffered a concussion and lost several teeth when he was attacked in a local parking garage. McLain has stated that Pickett used anti-gay language while attacking him. Georgia Equality, the state's largest gay rights organization is calling this attack an anti-gay hate crime.

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.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I was necessarily absent for the votes on Senator BINGAMAN's amendment, No. 3210, vote No. 84, and Senator ALEXANDER's amendment, No. 3193, vote No. 85, on Monday, April 3, 2006. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted in favor of both amendments.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is holding a conference to delve into some of the policy questions that have delayed efforts to move forward with legislation addressing global warming. As many Americans have realized—even in the face of an absolute void of leadership from this current administration—one of the greatest challenges currently facing us is how to reduce our contributions to global climate change before it is too late for changes to matter. In fact, the majority of the American public believes that they have an individual role to play in being a part of the solution. And the public is looking to us, their elected leaders, to provide the framework for change.

As many people know, Senators LIEBERMAN and MCCAIN have been the longtime champions of raising awareness of global warming. Today's conference, under the leadership of Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN, demonstrates that more and more elected officials are willing to take a stand in recognizing the imminent need for action. Along with my constituents, I hope that the time will soon come when a majority of the U.S. Congress is willing to follow their lead.

On the heels of today's conference, another Senate committee is scheduled to consider the issue of global warming. Tomorrow, the Commerce Committee's Global Climate Change and Impacts Subcommittee will hear about the administration's approach to the issue. While the administration favors developing and sharing new zero and low-carbon technologies with developing nations, I submit that our citizens are looking for bold action that addresses more than how we will help developing countries—they want to know what we plan to do domestically.

Mr. President, if there ever was a time when it was all right to ignore global warming, that time has long passed. We have got to get real about this issue—and getting real will require a commitment to reducing our dependence on oil instead of continually talking about opening up a wildlife refuge for oil drilling. For, if we continue turning our backs on the reality of climate change, we might as well be turning our backs on our grandchildren—and this is why I am optimistic that the Senate's treatment of global warming is nearing its own tipping point, a point after which we will provide the leadership that our constituents are increasingly expecting from us.

TRIBUTE TO TIM PETTY

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment and acknowledge the dedicated service of Tim Petty, director of information resources for the U.S. Senate Republican Conference, which I chair. Tim is moving on to become a Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Interior, and today is his last day serving the Senate.

Since 1999, Tim has served as an integral team leader in the creation and development of the Internet technology department established by the Senate Republican Conference. This department was created to help the Conference implement a comprehensive technology strategy to help the Republican leadership efficiently and effectively use evolving Internet communication capabilities.

Over the course of the past 7 years, Tim has led efforts and worked in collaboration with Senate and leadership offices in transforming the way the conference communicates and disseminates information using 21st century strategies and technology. Tim is always thinking of the next step, the next tool, the next idea.

Highlights of just a few of Tim's many accomplishments at the Senate include a 2002 overhaul of the leadership's Intranet, known as the TrunkLine. This successful redesign and restructuring of the Intranet enhanced the ability of staff members to find key information provided from the Leadership, which helps strengthen communication strategies and overall messaging. In 2004, the TrunkLine was recognized by a prominent Internet usability report as one the top 10 government Intranets in the world. Only 3 of the top 10 Intranets selected were from the United States.

In keeping with the vision of helping offices with their technology strategies, Tim led an initiative involving online database access that allowed all Senate offices to develop their own dynamic Web sites. Many offices are now able to more fully manage their own Web sites and share information as a result of this effort.

One of Tim's primary objectives over the past 2 years has been enhancing the conference's ability to utilize wireless communications. A year ago the Republican Cloakroom began posting key legislative updates to the TrunkLine which then generates notices to wireless devices instantaneously when a legislative bill is hotlined. Prior to this change, notifications were done through a telephone broadcast system.

Another technological communications tool Tim initiated for the conference is videoconferencing, which has allowed Senators to talk to State offices, meet with students in their classrooms, and to participate in conferences and meetings of constituents in real time.

Tim also recognized the value of blogging and has implemented a strategy to reach beyond the usual media to take advantage of reaching a new audience with the Republican message.

Tim's leadership in the area of technology strategy has been invaluable to our conference. I appreciate his enthusiasm and tireless efforts to help move an institution known for holding onto traditions into the 21st century. I wish him the very best in his new service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN M. FOLEY BARRETT

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and service of an inspiring trooper from the Massachusetts State Police, Kathleen M. Foley Barrett. Kathleen dedicated 27 years of her life to protecting the people of Massachusetts, and I join her colleagues and family in paying tribute to a career defined by compassion, professionalism, and a sustained love of police work.

A native of Cambridge, MA, Kathleen was raised and educated in Weymouth. Initially she considered nursing school, but Kathleen's passion for police work

started her on a career path that few women were encouraged to follow at the time. Kathleen ultimately earned the chance to join the 62nd Recruit Training Troop in November 1980.

After working on the force for 5 years, Kathleen was promoted to the level of master trainer on the State Police K-9 Unit. She bonded instantly with the specially trained canine teams and rose to such prominence that her expertise was called upon to lead seminars and provide instruction on cadaver work. Beyond the borders of Massachusetts, Kathleen was called upon to help the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the rescue efforts following the September 11th terrorist attacks in New York. Two thousand four brought the unfortunate cancer diagnosis that would ultimately claim her, but even that news could not keep her from coming to the aid of her fellow citizens in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Kathleen loved police work, and her colleagues loved her. Over the course of her career she belonged to the State Police Association of Massachusetts, the North American Police Work Dog Association, and the International Association of Police Work Dogs. Her love of animals defined her private life as well as her professional one, and she enjoyed swimming with manatees and feeding bottleneck tigers at Florida's Amazing Exotics Education Center.

As the cancer progressed and the end approached, law enforcement officers from around the Commonwealth and across the country made sure Kathleen knew how much she was valued and respected. State Police Colonel Thomas G. Robbins honored her at her bedside with the Colonel's Award of Excellence, a tribute bestowed on only seven troopers in Massachusetts history. Officers of every stripe bowed their heads upon news of her death on March 23, 2006.

Mr. President, Kathleen's characteristic perseverance stands as an inspiration and challenge to us all. She lived an American life, one of service and struggle, and throughout it all she was guided by an unshakable commitment to her family, her job, and her colleagues. We are thankful for her time with us, we are better for her time here, and I join every Massachusetts State trooper in serving witness to the loss of an exemplary law enforcement officer.●

HONORING THE COLORADO UNIVERSITY SKI TEAM

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize the University of Colorado—CU—ski team for claiming their 17th national ski championship title at the 53rd Annual NCAA Championship. I am also extremely proud that the CU ski team has been invited to participate in the National Student-Athlete Day activities at the White House on April 6. This is an incredible honor for these young athletes, their coaches, their parents, and the University of Colorado.

The CU ski team overcame insurmountable odds to claim their 17th national ski championship. This year's ski team was the first team in U.S. history to win the national title without a full 12-skier team. This year's team broke and set the largest comeback record in NCAA ski team history—winning the title after being ranked sixth following the first full day of competition. Battling injury, illness, and an underdog status, the CU ski team went on to claim a national victory with a 98-point lead—the fourth largest margin of victory in NCAA ski team history. CU team skiers also claimed four individual titles and eight All-American honors. These team members deserve national recognition for their focus, determination, and spirit.

It is this team's spirit, leadership, and record of achievement that will be honored by President Bush on National Student-Athlete Day, this April 6th. The CU ski team is being honored for their excellence in academics and athletics as well as for their contributions to their community. National Student-Athlete Day also represents an opportunity to recognize the parents, teachers, and coaches who have helped mold and challenge these outstanding student-athletes. This honor is representative of the University of Colorado under the outstanding leadership and commitment of University president Hank Brown, CU athletic director Mike Bohn, and Colorado ski team head coach Richard Rokos. Due to the talent, dedication, and leadership of the CU athletes, coaches, and university leadership, the University of Colorado is back on top of the collegiate skiing world.

Congratulations to the University of Colorado, the ski team, the coaches, and the community that has supported this team throughout this winning, landmark season.

On behalf of the State of Colorado, I am proud to honor and commemorate the University of Colorado's ski team and request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the University of Colorado and these outstanding young men and women.●

LADY BULLDOGS

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the women's gymnastics team from Madison Central High School. In February, the Lady Bulldog gymnasts won their 12th straight South Dakota State championship.

The Lady Bulldogs already held the record for consecutive South Dakota Prep Team Titles in any sport with their win last year. The Madison gymnastics program is currently in second place nationally for most consecutive victories and is now just one win shy of the national record. The Lady Bulldogs is the only team in the top 10 nationally that have an active winning streak.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication of so many in the Madison Central