

“treason”—and he was exactly right; it is treason and a betrayal of the troops in the field.

Unfortunately, in the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, there has been only negligible congressional oversight and investigation of war profiteering. That leaves the False Claims Act as the last best hope for taxpayers to recover, yet the Department of Justice has systematically delayed lawsuits brought under the act.

My amendment will directly address this latter problem. By all means, the Department of Justice should have ample time to review cases brought under the False Claims Act. But after a maximum of 1 year, those cases should be allowed to go forward in the courts so that justice is served.

This is a strictly nonpartisan amendment. It is all about protecting taxpayer dollars and ensuring that our troops in the field are not put at risk because of corrupt contractors. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURR). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF MERVIN IVERSON ELEMENTARY SPACE DAY DESIGN CHALLENGE TEAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Shane Buckley, Brett Hyde, and Luis Rangel of Mervin Iverson Elementary School on their selection as a Stellar Design Challenges team for Space Day 2006. I also want to recognize their teacher, Kathryn Grimes, for her outstanding leadership and guidance of the team.

Space Day is an international celebration of the achievements and opportunities in space exploration aimed at inspiring students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. It reaches hundreds of thousands of teachers and millions of students around the world. Past events in support of Space Day have taken place in over 25 countries on 6 continents.

Created by the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, Space Day Design Challenges is a national competition that encourages students to create innovative solutions to the challenges of space exploration. The 21 Stellar Design Challenges teams were selected from more than 259 teams who participated in the competition, making these students' work even more impressive.

The Mervin Iverson Elementary School team designed a tool to help researchers on Mars. The remotely operated tool would collect samples of

rock, minerals, and soil, analyze their chemical compositions, measure temperatures of the Martian surface, and relay this data back to Earth.

In honor of their achievements, the Iverson students will attend the national Space Day 2006 ceremony at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and meet former Senator John Glenn. They will also have the opportunity to share their knowledge by displaying their project to more than 2,000 sixth graders from the Washington, DC area.

Their success is reflective of their hard work, dedication, and creativity as well as Mervin Iverson Elementary School's strong commitment to academic excellence. Please join me in honoring Mervin Iverson Elementary School and its Stellar Design Challenges team on this extraordinary accomplishment.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GEORGE RONALD ROEHL, JR.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and a deep sense of gratitude to pay tribute to a brave young man, PFC George Ronald Roehl, Jr., of Manchester, NH, for his service and his supreme sacrifice for his country.

George was born on January 24, 1985, in Manchester, NH. He graduated from Franklin High School, Franklin, NH, in 2003 and entered the United States Army on November 2, 2004. He subsequently graduated from basic combat training and advanced individual training at Ft. Knox, KY, and was assigned to Bravo Troop, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Hood, TX, where he served as a Scout dismount.

George, the oldest of five children, risked everything to fight for the values we Americans hold dear, in a country halfway around the world. Tragically, on April 11, 2006, this courageous young soldier and two of his comrades died as a result of injuries sustained in Taji, Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near their Bradley Fighting Vehicle and they subsequently came under small arms fire during combat operations. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Combat Action Badge.

Patriots from the State of New Hampshire have served our Nation with honor and distinction from Bunker Hill to Baghdad—and George served in that fine tradition. Daniel Webster said, “God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it.” George was one of those proud and dedicated volunteers who believed in fighting for our country and guarding our precious liberty, and for that we will always owe our sincere gratitude.

My condolences and prayers go out to George's family, and I offer them my deepest sympathies. Family, friends, and fellow soldiers will no longer be able to enjoy the company of PFC George R. Roehl, Jr. Yet memories of this young patriot will last forever with those who were fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to know him. He realized a calling and chose to employ his youthful energy and considerable talents for his country. He understood that the freedoms and opportunities provided by this Nation need continuous defense and that they are among the most precious gifts he can give to his family and loved ones. Because of him, the safety and liberty of each and every American is more secure. May God bless George Ronald Roehl, Jr.

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.

In April 2006 the beatings of two gay men in separate attacks took place in northeast Fort Lauderdale, FL. The first attack involved a gay man who was riding his bicycle. When he passed a man on the sidewalk, the man yelled a gay slur and then beat him. Minutes after the first attack a group of men forced a gay man into their car, took him to a local park, then beat and robbed him. According to reports, both attacks appear to have been motivated by the victim's sexual orientation.

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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF A DUAL CELEBRATION FOR THE CITY OF KERMAN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a dual celebration for the city of Kerman, CA. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Kerman as a city in Fresno County and also the 60th anniversary of its incorporation as an official city.

In 1891, the Southern Pacific Railroad Company constructed a new line between Tracy and Fresno. A nondescript watering tank and pump along

that line was given the name Collis as a tribute to Collis P. Huntington, a member of the famed "Big Four" of western railroading. The first inhabitant, the caretaker of the pump and tank, resigned his job after just a few months, not because of the demands of the job but, rather, because the area was too desolate and barren.

As a speculative venture, the Bank of California purchased a large tract of land in every county in California. The arid land around what became Kerman was chosen as the allotment for Fresno County. After the death of its promoter, the once prominent bank became insolvent and its holdings were liquidated. In 1910, the property in Fresno County caught the attention of two Los Angeles capitalists, William G. Kerckoff and Jacob Mansar, who saw the tract as an opportunity to purchase a rich water supply from the newly constructed Enterprise Canal. Mr. Kerckoff and Mr. Mansar combined the first three letters of their names and renamed the area "Kerman."

Since its incorporation in 1946, Kerman has experienced steady growth while retaining its identity and character as a predominately agrarian community. Today, Kerman has joined with other thriving cities on the west side of Fresno County along the Interstate 5 corridor by reaching out to industry through the development of an industrial park.

From a remote outpost that was once deemed too isolated for a watering tank operator to one of the fastest growing cities in Fresno County, the city of Kerman has served as a shining example to the importance of agriculture in California and also to the virtues of community spirit and diversity.

As the residents of Kerman continue to work together to make their city a better place to call home, I congratulate them on their auspicious dual landmark anniversaries and wish them continued success and good fortune.●

HONORING MANUEL PORTILLO

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a remarkable citizen of my home State of California, Mr. Manuel Portillo, as National City dedicates the Casa de Salud Manuel Portillo Youth Center in his honor.

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Portillo has played an exemplary role in empowering and improving the lives of children and young adults throughout the San Diego community. His tireless efforts to improve his beloved community and his selfless service to our Nation has made a tangible difference for countless people. The will and vision of Mr. Portillo serves as an inspiration to us all.

Born in 1920, Mr. Portillo rose from humble beginnings to become a leader in the San Diego community. As a youth, he developed a passion for the sport of boxing that he still enjoys today. At age 12, he was earning 25

cents an hour picking celery, yet the strength of character for which he has come to be known was only just beginning to emerge. By 17, Portillo was working for the Civilian Conservation Corps, helping develop bridges and campgrounds, many of which are still in use today throughout the State, including in Yosemite National Park.

In 1942, only 30 days after being married, Portillo was drafted by the U.S. Army and sent to join the Allied struggle in Europe during the height of World War II. While serving in the Army, Portillo honed his boxing skills to a fine art and often challenged his fellow soldiers. Portillo returned to National City after being honorably discharged and after receiving four bronze service stars as a Sergeant in Company A 378th Infantry.

After returning home, Portillo dedicated himself to improving his community by establishing positive programs for otherwise troubled neighborhood youth. He was able to keep many of these kids off the streets and out of trouble by teaching them the sport of boxing. With an emphasis on sportsmanship and discipline, Portillo has made a positive impact in the lives of countless children and young adults. His success inspired the creation of the Casa Knight, the Casa Men's Club, Santos and Peepees for boys, and the Knightetts. These recreational groups have become fundamental vehicles for social mobility, encouraging positive self-image and motivation in both an extracurricular and academic capacity.

It is with great pleasure that I commend Manuel Portillo for his passionate commitment to helping others and tireless efforts to improve the broader San Diego community. I wish him great success in the future.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2700. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for a Federal Fuels List, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on April 27, 2006, she had presented

to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill and joint resolution:

S. 592. An act to amend the Irrigation Project Contract Extension Act of 1998 to extend certain contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and certain irrigation water contractors in the States of Wyoming and Nebraska.

S.J. Res. 28. Joint resolution approving the location of the commemorative work in the District of Columbia honoring former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6598. A communication from the Director, Office of Human Resources Management, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's report on Category Rating; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6599. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Nonmilitary Helicopter Urban Noise Study"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6600. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of action on a nomination for the position of Administrator, Maritime Administration, received on April 27, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6601. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, received on April 27, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6602. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Rule, Removal of Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder Trip Limit" (I.D. No. 032406B) received on April 27, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6603. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Annual Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments" (I.D. No. 112305B) received on April 27, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6604. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Shark Quotas and Season Lengths" ((RIN0648-AU17) (I.D. No. 012006B)) received on April 27, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6605. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Models Tay 650-15 and