

need for greater flexibility for rural counties with teacher qualification requirements in NCLB. The superintendent of White Pine County, Bob Dolezal, concurred and shared the challenges of ensuring that his high school teaching staff of five, who each have taught multiple subjects, would be considered “highly qualified” to teach all subjects.

Make no mistake about it: The issue is not whether teachers in rural areas should be qualified to teach multiple subjects—they should. However, requiring them to attain “highly qualified” status in all subjects simultaneously is unreasonable.

In other counties, like Douglas County, they have actually seen enrollment decline, as housing costs drove families to less expensive areas. Yet the district has had increased expenses because of onerous NCLB requirements. The superintendent, John Soderman, said he appreciates the accountability principles in the law but also talked about the negative implications of the law’s punitive nature.

Mary Pierczynski in Carson City cited NCLB’s effect on thinking and creativity. They have over 200 days of curriculum to teach but with only 180 days of school. And standardized testing is taking up more 10 days of that time.

In Humboldt County, it is difficult to get qualified paraprofessionals, and additional requirements will leave many of the schools without aides. Superintendent Charlotte Peterson said that the only other option would be to bring them in from many miles away.

In Eureka County, where there are just a few hundred students, Ben Zunino talked about a feeling of inevitability for schools to be labeled as failing and how one student’s performance can often make the difference between a school being labeled as high achieving or needs improvement. To improve this, Lincoln County Superintendent Rick Hardy suggested counting the percentage of students who move into proficiency as a way of recognizing improvement and the hard work of teachers and students.

In Storey County, Rob Slaby is fretful about the time for history and arts that has been lost to testing and preparation for these tests and suggested some kind of credit for these important subjects.

Dottie Merrill from Washoe County, the State’s second largest school district, suggested that students who are English-learners not be included in testing until they have been in the United States for a few years, as opposed to 1 year, as is currently in the law. This would give schools the time necessary to help these students transition to school in the United States.

Nearly all superintendents mentioned the struggle to pay for the basics, like school buses and supplies, with the ever-increasing costs of NCLB requirements. If the Federal Government would fully fund NCLB, as it had

promised, it would alleviate some of these hardships.

As an example, many of the districts mentioned the cost to provide transportation for their increasingly scattered student population. In many rural counties, where some students travel up to 150 miles a day for school, transportation expenses can be upwards of 70 percent of the budget. Many districts have had to cut some special events because of rising transportation costs, and all were concerned about the amount school bus costs and high gas prices will cut into their overall budgets.

I have touched on just a few of the problems with the No Child Left Behind Act and some of the ways educators in Nevada have suggested to improve it. It is going to take a lot of hard work to make it what it promised to be: a tool that will help the teachers and students in every public school in America.

Today, as we honor the Nation’s teachers for their work and dedication, we must ensure that we keep our promise to America’s students. We can’t afford to leave them behind.

RECOGNITION OF CHUCK FULKERSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I rise to honor one of the true heroes for Nevada’s veterans, retired COL Charles “Chuck” Fulkerson. This man is a Reno native, a war hero, and a dedicated public servant.

I have known Chuck for many years, and I have always appreciated his dedication to improving the lives of veterans in our State. When Chuck spoke about veterans issues, he spoke from a position of experience.

In 1955, Chuck enrolled in the Army Reserve while an undergraduate at the University of Nevada-Reno. The Korean war had ended, but our world was still a very unstable place. A few years, later when the United States found itself involved in another crisis in Southeast Asia, Chuck answered his Nation’s call to service. He went to Vietnam, not once but twice, for tours of combat. After the war, Chuck served his country in Europe before returning home to serve in the Nevada National Guard.

While maintaining his military obligations, Chuck served the citizens of Nevada in a variety of government positions. Gov. Bob List appointed Chuck to be the director of the Nevada Selective Service in 1979. After almost 6 years of service in that role, Gov. Dick Bryan recalled Chuck to active duty when he appointed Chuck to be the director of the property and fiscal officers for the Nevada National Guard.

After almost 40 years of military service, Chuck retired in 1991. He taught military history at the University of Nevada-Reno, but his public service to our State was not yet complete. Gov. Kenny Guinn appointed Chuck to be the executive director of

the Nevada Office of Veterans Services in 2000, an office he faithfully served until this March.

Chuck presided over the Nevada Office of Veterans Services at a critical point in our State’s history. Since 1990, Nevada’s veterans population has increased by more than 40 percent. This unprecedented growth put strain on many resources in Nevada, but Chuck was never discouraged.

Instead, he worked tirelessly for more staff and additional resources to help Nevada veterans.

Under Chuck’s watch, Nevada modernized their veterans services including the completion of a new Veterans Nursing Home in Boulder City. Chuck presided over the construction of this facility, which is home to more than 162 of America’s heroes. Another key part of Chuck’s work was his effort to improve veterans cemeteries through Nevada, including cemeteries at Boulder City and Fernley. I was pleased to work with Chuck to secure Federal appropriations to expand these cemeteries.

The Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education has awarded Chuck their highest award, naming him a Distinguished Nevadan. With his long list of accomplishments for Nevada’s veterans, Chuck is most deserving of this high honor, and I am pleased to recognize his accomplishments today before the Senate.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the brave men and women who lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers and to thank them for making the ultimate sacrifice.

Today is Peace Officers Memorial Day, a day to honor all the law enforcement officers in our communities who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty. I was proud to join Senator PATRICK LEAHY on S. Res. 472, a Senate resolution, which passed the Senate last week, commemorating this important day.

This past Saturday, thousands of people from across the country gathered at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington, DC, for a candlelight vigil to honor these fallen officers. And today, there was a Peace Officers Memorial Service in front of the U.S. Capitol for these brave men and women. I am proud that we had a dedicated group of Michigan officers in attendance, representing their fellow officers from around the State.

The names of 466 fallen officers were added to the memorial on Saturday, including 8 officers from Michigan: Lavern Steven Brann, Battle Creek, Michigan; William A. Daniels, Cassopolis, Michigan; Owen David Fisher, Flint, Michigan; Dale Francis Bernock, Dearborn, Michigan; Scot Andrew Beyerstedt, Mattawan, Michigan; Benjamin Lewis Carpenter, Newaygo,

Michigan; Michael Allen Scarbrough, Wayne County, Michigan; and Paul Lee Mickel, Wayne County, Michigan. We honor all of these officers today.

In Michigan, we also remember two officers who recently lost their lives in the line of duty. Less than a month ago, Reserve Officer Matthew Tuttle and Chief Scott Sumner were killed in a helicopter accident in Scio Township while providing aerial support for officers who were involved in a foot pursuit.

Chief Sumner was a 19-year veteran of the Chelsea Police Department, and Officer Tuttle was only 28 years old. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and the entire Chelsea Police Department.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I commemorate the hard work and sacrifices made daily by law enforcement officers all across our great land. Many have lost their lives in the line of duty so that our families and communities may remain safe. We must never forget those who have given their lives to protect us all.

The annual celebration of Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week during the calendar week has its roots in Public Law 87-726, which was signed into law on October 1, 1962 by President John F. Kennedy. Public Law 87-726 designated this day and week as a time for "recognition of the service given by the men and women who, night and day, stand guard in our midst to protect us through enforcement of our laws." This law was later amended during the 103rd Congress as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act in 1994 to order the United States flag on all Government buildings displayed at half-staff on May 15.

Since the turn of the last century, more than 60 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty in New Mexico. This year, among other activities, law enforcement officers from around the country honored the lives of three New Mexico police officers whose names were recently added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. One occurred a very long time ago, and the two others just last year.

Officer Michael R. King and Officer Richard W. Smith, Jr., both of the Albuquerque Police Department, are two of the three officers being honored this year. Their deaths occurred on a day that has become ingrained in the hearts of most New Mexicans as one of the bloodiest and most tragic in recent times. Officers King and Smith, long-time veterans of the Albuquerque Police Department, were responding to a call on August 20, 2005 ordering the pickup of a mental health patient from Kaseman Hospital. When they arrived at the scene, Officers King and Smith had no way of knowing that the subject of their call, John Hyde would be implicated in the shooting deaths of three people earlier that day. During the pickup Officers King and Smith were

gunned down in the street before their murderer fled on a motorcycle. It took a force of approximately 300 of their fellow officers to chase down and finally apprehend the man responsible for the deaths of these brave and respected police officers.

The other officer honored this year was gunned down in Hope, New Mexico approximately 108 years ago. At the time, Eddy County Deputy Sheriff Bud Johnson had traveled to Hope in order to serve a warrant on one L.E. Pratt in regard to an infraction over water control. According to the Eddy County Sheriff's Department, Pratt shot and killed Bud Johnson with a shotgun when he was notified of the warrant. Deputy Sheriff Johnson died immediately.

Deputy Johnson's death shows us that the dangers of police work have been present throughout the long history of our Nation. All too recently, citizens of New Mexico mourned the loss of Deputy James McGrane, Jr., who was killed on March 22, 2006 during a traffic stop in Tijeras, NM. While we remember those who have lost their lives, we also take solace in the fact that many others have been able to survive the dangers of duty. Officer John Garcia, Officer Josh Otzenberger, Sergeant Carol Oleksak, Deputy Shaun Sanchez, and Sheriff's pilot Chris Holland were all shot during the past two years while protecting our communities. We are thankful that most of them survived these close brushes with death and were able to return to duty.

We should remember their dedication to protect and serve, and the tragic price they paid for that devotion. We must also remember the families of all fallen officers and the sacrifices they have incurred because of a deep-seated commitment to duty and public service. All of us from New Mexico owe a debt of gratitude to each and every officer who has lost their lives in the line of duty. To all who have paid the ultimate price and to those who continue to serve, may we forever be grateful and never take for granted what you do. You have my utmost admiration.

MARLBORO MUSIC FESTIVAL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Just south of Route 9 in southern Vermont, along a tree-lined road, lies one of Vermont's distinctive destinations, Marlboro College. Walk through this picturesque school in the summer months and you will hear some of the sweetest melodies imaginable, or you may be enveloped by warm pulses of sound that seem to linger like the wispy clouds above. The sounds you hear are those of another year of the Marlboro Music Festival.

Since its founding in 1951, this 8-week festival—one of the world's premiere chamber music workshops and weekend concert series—brings some of the most renowned and experienced musicians together with the rising stars of tomorrow.

This year has marked the 40th anniversary of the Musicians From Marlboro, the festival's active touring program which sends the musicians on the road to perform periodically across the country. At some of the Nation's premier venues, including historic places like the Freer Gallery in Washington and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the concerts feature the exceptional music heard first in the Marlboro Music Festival.

As this remarkable event approaches again this year, spanning the gorgeous Vermont months of June through August, it is fitting to pause to note the accomplishments of the Musicians From Marlboro and the entire Marlboro Music Festival. For four decades, the festival's touring group has brought their music to every corner of the United States. For four decades, the musicians have set a model of artistic excellence that has inspired other musicians and artists and their audiences. This band of musicians—outwardly casual but hard-driven in their pursuit of beauty and truth in their art—has moved thousands of concert-goers.

The touring group has featured such superb musicians as Rudolph Serkin, Richard Goode, Benita Velente, and Murray Perahia. Performers who went on to make up such noted ensembles as the Guarneri and Emerson String Quartets have received critical early boosts from the Marlboro experience of intensive summers and the tours. Their alumni can be found in many leading orchestras, from the Philadelphia Orchestra to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

There is certainly something about Vermont and the Green Mountains that helps inspire the ensemble. Whatever the inspiration, the Musicians From Marlboro are a superb reflection of the best Vermont has to offer.

Vermont is a richer place because of the Marlboro Music Festival, and the festival and its musicians have touched innumerable audiences across the country with their artistry. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating the Marlboro Music Festival and its Musicians From Marlboro on this great achievement of 40 years of touring and in wishing the festival many more happy and sonorous decades to come.

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 the summer of 1988 in Orange County, CA, a group of six youths went