

LINTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the Linton Police Department and their Chief of Police, Keith McDonald. I also want to take a moment to recognize Linton's Drug Task Force Officer Joshua Goodman.

Under the leadership of Chief McDonald, the Linton Police Department has increased its drug arrests by nearly 500 percent over the past 5 years. Most recently, the department executed a drug bust that resulted in the seizure of approximately \$250,000 worth of methamphetamine—one of the largest drug busts in the western part of the State.

Methamphetamine is currently one of the fastest-growing drug threats in the Nation, and the problem is particularly acute in the Midwest and Indiana. In Indiana, the number of meth labs has increased 750 percent over the last 5 years and the meth industry costs the State at least \$100 million a year.

Indiana's epidemic of meth use destroys families, places undue burdens on taxpayers, and exhausts child service resources. Hoosier families depend on local law enforcement officers to protect their children and keep their communities strong. In the face of the growing meth epidemic and despite an increasing number of homeland security responsibilities, the Linton Police Department and other police departments across the State have risen to the challenge. With the help of tougher State meth laws, these local police forces have succeeded in reducing the number of meth labs across Indiana.

But they need more support from the Federal Government. Local police forces, like Linton's, are already stretched thin as they respond to a growing number of homeland security challenges. Nothing short of a national commitment with tough, innovative laws will stop the spread of this terrible drug that is threatening our communities. For this reason, I coponsored the Combat Meth Act in 2004 to provide a nationwide approach that gives police officers the tools they need to fend off the creation of new meth labs and helps families rebuild their lives. I am hopeful that this legislation will help Linton and other towns continue to succeed in their fight against the meth scourge.

I wanted to take the time to recognize the Linton Police Department today, because as our Nation faces increasingly uncertain times, including the escalation of the meth epidemic, it is our first responders who are our primary line of defense. In all areas, but especially the fight against meth, Linton's Police Department has gone well beyond the call of duty.

On behalf of the State of Indiana, I thank the Linton Police Department for helping keep Greene County's streets safe and its community strong and meth-free. It is my honor to enter this tribute in the official record of the United States Senate in recognition of the Linton Police Department's ex-

traordinary commitment to the citizens of Greene County.●

TOURETTE SYNDROME OUTREACH AND RESEARCH

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I applaud Congress for including \$1.8 million for Tourette Syndrome research in H.R. 3010, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006.

Tourette Syndrome is an inherited neurobiological disorder that manifests itself in rapid, repeated, and involuntary movements and sounds. The disorder affects approximately 200,000 adults and children across America. While there is no cure for Tourette Syndrome, some individuals benefit from education and other clinical treatment.

To further develop educational outreach and research programs, Congress established the Tourette Syndrome Education and Research Program within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2000. Today, this program provides education about Tourette Syndrome for the public, physicians, allied healthcare workers and teachers. Additionally, the program's intensive training initiatives aim to increase recognition and diagnosis of Tourette Syndrome and to decrease the associated stigma.

Over the past 2 years, the Tourette Syndrome Association, the only national nonprofit membership organization dedicated to finding the cause, finding a cure, and controlling the effects of Tourette Syndrome, has acted in partnership with the CDC to expand educational outreach. In its first year working with the CDC, the Tourette Syndrome Association offered 25 expert medical education programs, as well as five major education allied professional programs. In 2006, the association plans to expand upon these efforts and to offer training for neurologists in both English and Spanish.

Mr. President, I encourage the CDC to continue its partnership with the Tourette Syndrome Association as the agency plans its research and education strategy for fiscal year 2006. By building and expanding on past collaborative efforts, the CDC and the Tourette Syndrome Association can bring hope to families affected by the disorder.●

COMMEMORATING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, Dr. King was a light for America. At times, he was a searching, probing light in the dark, seeking to find the truth and expose it to all humanity. He spoke plainly and eloquently of the great injustices that were occurring during his time. He focused his spotlight on places like Selma, Atlanta, Birmingham, and Little Rock, places that were in such need of healing at that time. And he

was often a stark, blinding light for many in this country who were unwilling to come to terms with the great evil represented in segregation, discrimination, and humiliation, all of which were fueled by hatred and ignorance.

For so many people of his generation, Dr. King was the first light of the morning, awakening them from their naive slumber to confront great moral questions. He and all the champions of the civil rights movement are responsible for forcing America to look inward and recognize the sickness that plagued our Nation's soul. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once said that "sunlight is the best disinfectant." Dr. King fully recognized the meaning of these words as he exposed our culture's illness to the light of day, eventually helping America begin to heal.

He was also a guiding light, navigating the civil rights movement through largely uncharted waters, and helping a great many minority Americans come to the realization that they were all in the same boat. They were no longer alone in their struggle against oppression. Indeed, there were many at the time who cautioned against "rocking the boat" too much. But King's leadership proved to a weary and discouraged people that there was a great Promised Land at the end of their journey. The path he illuminated required the strongest of wills, and for that guiding light, we are all thankful.

Since Dr. King's time, the American people have made great strides toward racial equality and the elimination of poverty, yet there still remains much to be accomplished. And in the spirit of Dr. King's life, our Nation must continue to turn the light inward and expose injustice. Dr. King's purpose in life did not end in his death, nor did it end in the court cases and legislation that have further expanded freedom and opportunity in America since that time. Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy is an undying light that serves as a constant reminder of the noblest cause to protect and promote liberty that our Nation began with its founding. His undying light also calls on us never to forget our humanity. Even a country founded on the highest moral principles can retreat into oppression and injustice in periods of darkness. For helping lead us out of the darkness, we honor Dr. King on this day, and we pledge to always remember the struggle that marches on.●

REFOCUSING ON GUN SAFETY

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, nearly 100,000 children and teenagers have been killed by firearms since 1979. This figure underscores the inadequacy of Congress' efforts to address the issue of gun violence over this period and the continuing need for common sense gun safety legislation.

An analysis of firearm violence data by the Children's Defense Fund found

that guns kill more children between the ages of 10 and 19 than any other cause except car accidents. In 2002, the most recent data available, guns killed 2,867 children under 19 years old. Tragically, that means an average of nearly 8 children are killed by guns each day. Additionally, the CDF estimates that at least four times as many children are injured in non-fatal shootings.

The number of firearms deaths among American children is greater than any other nation in the world. In fact, the Children's Defense Fund states in its 2005 annual report that the rate of deaths among children under 18 years old is higher in the United States than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. While the gun violence epidemic in this country cannot simply be legislated away, Congress must do more to address the problem.

The Children's Defense Fund makes a number of recommendations to protect children from gun violence. Among other things, the CDF suggests removing guns from homes, providing non-violent conflict resolution courses for all students, and creating positive community activities for children to reduce the influence of gangs and drugs on children and teenagers. Congress can take an active role in these efforts by taking up and passing common sense gun safety legislation, supporting federal funding for law enforcement and community programs, and focusing the media and public attention on the causes and consequences of gun violence.

During recent sessions of Congress, very little has been done to reduce the prevalence of gun violence. In 2004, inaction by President Bush and the Republican leadership in Congress led to the expiration of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban. In 2005, Congress passed, and the President signed, National Rifle Association-sponsored legislation that provided blanket immunity from liability to reckless and negligent gun dealers and manufacturers. While doing so, Congress repeatedly cut Federal funding for proven local law enforcement programs and failed to close the gun show loophole.

As we begin the second session of the 109th Congress, I am hopeful greater attention will be paid to finding solutions to the gun violence problems that plague our communities. We owe it to the thousands of families who have already been impacted by firearms tragedies to help prevent such things from happening to others.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United

States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 28, 2005, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS, of Virginia) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2167. An act to amend the USA PATRIOT ACT to extend the sunset of certain provisions of that Act and the lone wolf provision of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to July 1, 2006.

H.R. 2863. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3010. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4525. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4579. An act to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend by one year provisions requiring parity in the application of certain limits to mental health benefits.

H.R. 4635. An act to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through March 31, 2006, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of December 22, 2005, the enrolled bills were signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. ALLEN) during the adjournment of the Senate, on December 28, 2005.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 30, 2005, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS, of Virginia) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 972. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1815. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2017. An act to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domes-

tic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3179. An act to reauthorize and amend the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994.

H.R. 3402. An act to authorize appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal years 2006 through 2009, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4501. An act to amend the Passport Act of June 4, 1920, to authorize the Secretary of State to establish and collect a surcharge to cover the costs of meeting the increased demand for passports as a result of actions taken to comply with section 7209(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

H.R. 4637. An act to make certain technical corrections in amendments made by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Under the authority of the order of December 22, 2005, the enrolled bills were signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. ALLEN) during the adjournment of the Senate, on December 30, 2005.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 22, 2005, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 205. An act to authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish in the State of Louisiana a memorial to honor the Buffalo Soldiers.

S. 652. An act to provide financial assistance for the rehabilitation of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the development of an exhibit to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin.

S. 1238. An act to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to provide for the conduct of projects that protect forests, and for other purposes.

S. 1310. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation to increase the diameter of a natural gas pipeline located in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, to allow certain commercial vehicles to continue to use Route 209 within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and to extend the termination date of the National Park System Advisory Board to January 1, 2007.

S. 1481. An act to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to provide for probate reform.

S. 1892. An act to amend Public Law 107-153 to modify a certain date.

S. 1988. An act to authorize the transfer of items in the War Reserves Stockpile for Allies, Korea.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 23, 2005, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1281. An act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 28, 2005, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2167. An act to amend the USA PATRIOT Act to extend the sunset of certain