

of Malvern. On September 6, Sergeant Yarbrough was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq's Anbar Province. Also killed in the blast were SSgt John Stock, Cpl Bryan Scripsick, and Cpl Christopher Poole. The death of these four young men brought the total number of Marine deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq over 1,000. All four men were assigned to the 3rd Assault Amphibious Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force based at Camp Pendleton, CA.

Sergeant Yarbrough was also the second graduate of Glen Rose High School in Malvern killed in action within a month's time. Spc Donovan Witham, also of Malvern, died on August 21 from a roadside bomb near Baghdad. In an interview with the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, Glen Rose Middle School principal Tim Holicer somberly noted, "We are still grieving the loss of one, and here we have another one of our young men to be killed in Iraq. That's as hard on everybody around here as anything."

According to Sergeant Yarbrough's mother, Rhonda Fain-Yarbrough, her son wasn't scheduled to be in Iraq. He volunteered to return for a third tour after he heard that another soldier's wife was expecting a baby. "Michael didn't want to see him go, so he took his place." He told her that "as long as my men are there, I'm going to be there with them."

As the Yarbrough family and Malvern community grieve, we grieve with them. He will be remembered by those who loved him as a young man who was destined to be a soldier. "Ever since he was a little boy, he would march around with a stick on his shoulder, saying 'I'm going to be in the Army, Mom, I'm going to be in the Army.'" Mrs. Fain-Yarbrough told the Arkansas Democrat Gazette. True to his word, he enlisted after September 11, 2001.

For his efforts, Sergeant Yarbrough was awarded a Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, The National Defense Service Medal, and the Iraqi Campaign Medal, among others. He is survived by his wife Mary Ann Yarbrough; his mother Rhonda Fain-Yarbrough of Benton; and father Jerry Yarbrough of Gurdon. In addition, his grandmother Dolline Fain, and two sisters, Christy Smith of Arkadelphia and Misty Hutcheson of Traskwood, as well as their families will most certainly miss him. A grateful nation's thoughts and prayers go out to you at this difficult time.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, is currently considering the renewal of the California Department of Water Resources, DWR, license for the Oroville Facilities hydroelectric project in Butte County, CA.

DWR is exempt from paying State, local, or a Federal tax associated with

the Oroville Project and has not compensated Butte County for the services it provides for the project and its visitors. Butte County believes the relicensing is an opportunity to mitigate the county's revenue losses, which are estimated at nearly \$6.9 million per year.

FERC's Final Environmental Impact Statement also acknowledges that the Oroville Project has a negative fiscal impact on Butte County.

I have sent a letter to FERC asking that they consider efforts to mitigate Butte County's revenue loss and treat all parties equitably during the Oroville Project relicensing proceedings, and I ask unanimous consent to have text of this letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, December 13, 2007.

Chairman JOSEPH T. KELLIHER,
Commissioner SUEDEEN G. KELLY,
Commissioner PHILIP MOELLER,
Commissioner MARC SPITZER,
Commissioner JOHN WELLINGHOFF,
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN KELLIHER AND COMMISSIONERS: I am writing in regards to the relicensing proceedings for the Oroville Facilities hydroelectric project (Project P-2100) currently before the Commission. As you know, Butte County is required to provide services associated with the Oroville Facilities Project and its visitors, including law enforcement, fire and rescue, and road maintenance services.

The Commission's Final Environmental Impact Statement acknowledges the negative net fiscal impact the Oroville Facilities Project may impose on Butte County. As you prepare your final decision regarding the relicensing, I encourage you to consider efforts to mitigate the County's revenue loss. I am hopeful that all parties involved with the relicensing of the Oroville Facilities will be regarded equitably. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I wish 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.

Steven Domer, an Oklahoma City, OK, resident, went missing on October 26, 2007. The following day, police found his torched car and his body was found in a nearby ravine days later. On November 7, 2007, Darrell Madden was arrested for the shooting death of his friend Bradley Qualls. Both men were seen with the 62-year-old Domer the

day of his disappearance and are believed to have been involved in his murder. Madden has been charged with murder for allegedly strangling Domer to death. Investigations have uncovered that Madden was a sergeant in a White supremacist group and targeted Domer because he was gay. Domer's murder was allegedly a rite of passage for Qualls to rise to the next level within the organization. The district attorney prosecuting the case will present evidence to prove that Domer was targeted because he was gay. Oklahoma is one of seventeen States whose hate crime laws do not cover those targeted based on 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 Matthew Shepard 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.

LAUNCH OF USASPENDING.GOV

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I am very pleased to celebrate today's launch of USAspending.gov. This is an important day, an important milestone on the path to greater openness and transparency in the Federal Government. This site helps us to achieve a very simple and powerful vision: a vision that, in a democracy, the people ought to know what their Government is doing: how the Government is raising and spending money, how it is making and enforcing law, how it is supporting projects, how decisions are being made, and how results are being evaluated.

It is not a Democratic vision or a Republican vision. It is a commonsense vision of Government transparency and accessibility. It is a vision that rejects the idea that Government actions and decisions should be kept secret or classified. It is a vision that believes that information is at the heart of democracy and that we all must resist the dangerous trend of withholding or classifying or burying information that the American people have a right to know and need to know if they are to hold their leaders accountable.

I have been very troubled by the extent to which America has become a nation of government secrets. More and more information is kept secret or made intolerably complicated and inaccessible. More and more decisions are made behind closed doors with access limited to insiders and lobbyists.

USAspending.gov along with watchdog groups will give us all tools to help buck that trend. It will help by opening Government processes up to public view. It will provide a window into the Federal budget so all Americans can see how their tax dollars are being spent—how their Nation's resources are being used and obligated, where money is going as well as where it is not going. We will be able to see which grantees and contractors are receiving

money and the congressional district where the contract's services are performed. We will see which agencies are purchasing what, from whom, and where. Technology makes it possible for every American to know what is happening and to hold elected officials accountable.

If Government spending can't withstand public scrutiny, then the money shouldn't be spent. If a Government agency isn't willing to be held accountable for the grants or contracts it awards, then that agency shouldn't have control over Federal resources. Whether you believe the Government ought to spend more money or spend less, you should certainly be able to agree that the Government ought to spend every penny efficiently and transparently. Democrats and Republicans can all agree that wasteful spending is unacceptable, whether it is by FEMA, HUD, DOD, or any other Federal agency.

Transparency by itself is not enough, but transparency is the first step to holding Government accountable for its actions. Transparency is a prerequisite to oversight and financial control. We can't reduce waste, fraud, and abuse without knowing how, where, and why Federal money is flowing out the door.

USAspending.gov is a very good beginning. The Web site does not yet deliver everything that it is required to under the law, but its limitations and shortcomings are transparent, and it will get better and more complete week after week. I am also confident that people will use the site and will provide feedback directly on the site's community "Wiki" function for collecting and sharing public comments. This will raise the expectations of all Americans for greater transparency, access, and accountability. Now it will be up to us elected officials to meet those expectations.

It is important to point out that this site would not have been possible without the grassroots efforts of watchdog groups across the political spectrum who lobbied for passage of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, which Senator COBURN and I like to call the Transparency Act. The story behind the Transparency Act embodies the best of our democratic traditions—a bipartisan effort fueled by ordinary people who refused to accept that the Government couldn't make public information freely and simply available. Throughout this process, it has been an honor to work with Senator COBURN and to witness the dedicated work of the staff at OMB.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COACH SONNY LUBICK

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a legend in the Colo-

rado State University and Fort Collins, CO, community: Coach Sonny Lubick. For 15 seasons, he led the CSU Rams to a record of 108-74, six conference titles, and nine bowl games.

Originally from Butte, MT, Coach Lubick graduated from the University of Montana-Western in 1960 and began his coaching career 10 years later at Montana State University. After eight seasons as an assistant coach, he was promoted to head coach. His hard work and early success served as the foundation for what would become a remarkable coaching career.

After serving as an assistant coach for various other programs, Coach Lubick accepted the head coaching position at Colorado State University prior to the 1993 season. He began by implementing an aggressive effort to recruit players and expand the program beyond anything previously achieved. With new recruits and under new leadership, the CSU Rams reached new heights during Coach Lubick's second year with CSU. During that remarkable season, the Rams finished with a 10-2 record, clinching the university's first ever WAC Championship and a trip to the Holiday Bowl. The 1994 season was the beginning of a new era in Colorado State football, earning Sonny Lubick National Coach of the Year honors from Sports Illustrated magazine. Lubick also joined an elite list of coaches in 2005, as active Division IA coaches with 100 or more career wins with their current institution. This group includes only nine members.

The success Coach Lubick's program achieved led to the construction of the McGraw Athletic Center in 1999, and recently the university has announced its intention to build indoor practice facilities and an academic and training center, both of which are attributed to Sonny Lubick's leadership and efforts. Coach Lubick's personal philosophy of responsibility, character, respect, and perspective has been the driving force behind the success of both the football team and the surrounding community.

Sonny Lubick's family-oriented approach to coaching and life has earned a multitude of accolades. In 2003 he was recognized as "Father of the Year" by the American Diabetes Association—Colorado Chapter. That same year he was also named one of the four national finalists for the Eddie Robinson Coach of Distinction Award for his community service. Coach Lubick regularly gives his time to St. Jude's Children's Hospital and several other local charities. In 2005 the Fort Collins Board of Realtors named Coach Lubick "Citizen of the Year," and most recently the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce awarded him the Collins Award, given to local figures that exemplify leadership and service to the community.

Coach Sonny Lubick's charisma and good nature have made him an icon among students, fans, friends, and Coloradans. This popularity was cemented when a large donation was

made to renovate CSU's stadium under the condition that the field would be named for Coach Lubick. Today, the Colorado State Rams meet their opponents in Hughes Stadium, rushing out on to Sonny Lubick Field.

As an alumnus of Colorado State University, I want to thank Coach Lubick for his dedicated service and leadership to the football team, the university, and the community. •

REMEMBERING LODICE GRANT

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, on October 9, 2007, a beloved Idahoan passed away. Lodice Grant was raised in Nampa and, after moving out of State for a number of years, moved back to Nampa for the remainder of her life. She was small in stature but strong in her direction and devotion. She was a friend of mine and, together with her husband of 51 years, Fred Kelly Grant, worked closely with me in recent years on the Owyhee Initiative. Before her children were born, Lodice worked as the assistant sales manager for the University of Chicago Press and the Johns Hopkins University Press. Prior to her move back to Nampa, Lodice became the sales manager for Johns Hopkins University Press, earning such an outstanding reputation that noted authors refused to have anyone but her serve as their principal assistant and adviser as they were publishing their works. In Nampa, Lodice raised two boys and dedicated much of her time to working for and supporting the Roman Catholic Church in Caldwell and then for the Diocese of Idaho.

When Lodice retired from the church in 2003, she continued her staunch support of her husband's work as legal counsel for Owyhee County; they both made improving Owyhee County the capstone of their labor and life's work over the past few years. Lodice was a pillar of strength for her entire family. Her influence for good and her acts of service benefited countless people who loved her and will miss her energy, friendship, and spirit. She tended people in the same way she lovingly tended her beautiful yard and garden—with tenderness, careful attention, and tireless devotion. I was blessed to know her, and I offer my heartfelt condolences to Fred, their children Andy and Jon, five grandchildren, and family and friends during this difficult time. •

CONGRATULATING DR. WALTER BRYZIK

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Dr. Walter Bryzik as he retires after 40 years of service to the men and women of our Armed Forces and our Nation. Since 1968, Dr. Bryzik has held a variety of positions at the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, TARDEC, in Warren, MI, and is retiring early next year as its chief scientist. His career is one to be admired and he will be surely missed