

this Chamber as Peace Corps veterans. My good friend and colleague from West Virginia, Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER had worked for the Peace Corps in Washington, DC, where he served as the operations director for its largest overseas program in the Philippines. Members of my staff, like Zach Pusch, and even the mothers of members of my staff, like Mrs. Dorothy Corbin, have served in the Peace Corps. I have heard all of them, on a number of occasions, discuss how their lives and careers were enhanced by their service in the Peace Corps. Their experience in the Peace Corps inspired them to persevere in making this world a better and safer place in which to live, work, and raise families, long after they had left the program.

It is through the Peace Corps that the dreams and the policies of the great and beloved President John F. Kennedy live on.

On this 46th Anniversary of the Peace Corps, and in celebration of National Peace Corps Week, I want to congratulate everyone and anyone ever involved in this unique organization for your service to our country. And, I want to commend you for your efforts in promoting freedom around the world.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I regret that on February 28, I was unable to vote on certain provisions of S.4, the Improving America's Security Act of 2007. I wish to address these votes so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 54, on the Inouye amendment No. 285, I would not have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the result of the final vote.

Regarding vote No. 55, on the DeMint amendment No. 279 as modified, I would have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the result of the final vote.

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, this Sunday, March 4, will mark the 86th anniversary of the enactment of a measure which established the Tomb of the Unknowns, honoring those members of the U.S. Armed Forces who fell in battle but who were not able to be identified, those "known but to God."

By its very nature, war takes life. Parents lose children, children lose parents, and with each passing this country loses a son or daughter that makes this Nation what it is, great. No funeral or ceremony can stop the pain that cuts deep into the families of servicemembers who have been killed in action. But for the families of servicemembers missing in action, the cutting pain of loss remains an open wound.

At the end of the First World War, this country asked itself questions related to those American soldiers who were unknown or missing in action. Where would those families come to pray, to grieve? Where would the rest of us go to ponder how it is we should honor them?

Eighty-six years ago, Members of Congress, standing in the Capitol where we stand today, sought to respond to those questions. Eighty-six years later, the Tomb of the Unknowns stands honored and guarded. Since 1937, Tomb Guards of the 3rd U.S. Infantry have safeguarded those buried in the tomb, every minute of every day, never failing. They epitomize our Nation's commitment to honor all of America's unknown and missing soldiers.

On this occasion, choosing to reflect on the Tomb of the Unknowns and what it means would be of value to us all. We should think of the families of the missing, the spirits of the unknown soldiers, and of the Tomb Guards, who honor them. For myself, I extend heartfelt feelings my prayers for the families, my deepest gratitude to those unknown soldiers, honored by us all, though "known but to God," and my respect to those entrusted to guard the tomb.

ASSAULT WEAPONS PROTECTION

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in 1994, I voted for the assault weapons ban which was enacted into law, and in March 2004, I joined a bipartisan majority of the Senate in voting to extend the ban for another 10 years. Unfortunately, despite the overwhelming support of the law enforcement community, the ongoing threat of terrorism, and bipartisan support in the Senate, neither President Bush nor the Republican congressional leadership acted to help protect Americans from assault weapons. On September 13, 2004, the assault weapons ban was allowed to expire. Today, law enforcement agencies across the country have been forced to upgrade their firepower in order to counter what they describe as an increasing presence of high-powered weapons on the streets.

According to an article last week in USA Today, Scott Knight, chairman of the Firearms Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, revealed that an informal survey of approximately 20 police departments showed that since 2004, all of the agencies have been forced to either add weapons to their officers' units or replace existing weaponry with military-style arms. "This (weapons upgrade) is being done with an eye to the absolute knowledge that more higher-caliber weapons are on the street since the expiration of the ban," Knight explained.

The 1994 assault weapons ban prohibited the sale of 19 of the highest powered and most lethal firearms produced. It also prohibited the sale of semiautomatic weapons that incorporated a detachable magazine and two

or more specific military features. These features included folding telescoping stocks, threaded muzzles or flash suppressors, protruding pistol grips, bayonet mounts, barrel shrouds, or grenade launchers.

Ron Stucker, criminal investigations chief of the Orange County Sheriff's Department in Florida, stated that over the past 2 years his department has been arming many of its deputies with assault weapons. These deputies are now "frequently" encountering dangerous assault weapons even during routine traffic stops.

In Houston, homicides rose 25 percent in 2006 over the previous year. Police Chief Harold Hurtz acknowledged the AK-47 assault rifle has become the "weapon of choice" for major drug dealers, warring gangs and immigrant smugglers. "The reality on the street is that many of these weapons are readily available," according to Hurtz, whose department has also been consistently upgrading its weaponry with assault style arms.

It is clear that allowing the 1994 assault weapons ban to lapse has contributed to the dangerous and deadly consequences so many of us feared. Over the past 2 years criminals have been permitted easier access to weapons that simply have no place on our streets. I urge my colleagues to enact a commonsense ban on assault weapons.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I report that a victim of a hate crime in the city of Detroit died 10 days after the brutal incident.

Andrew Anthos was an extraordinary citizen with a passion for community service. During the last 20 years, Mr. Anthos repeatedly traveled by bus from Detroit to Lansing with a singular purpose, to urge the Michigan capital's dome be illuminated in red, white and blue, to honor his country.

Mr. Anthos wrote me last year to inform me of his efforts. As he put it, he wanted Michigan to be "the first State to inaugurate this patriotic tribute to its loyal citizens." He had support from many in the State, and had hoped for dedication lighting during Michigan Week, which will occur in May of this year, when Michigan would celebrate its 170th anniversary as our 26th State.

On the evening of February 13, 2007, Mr. Anthos was riding a bus home from the Detroit Public Library. A passenger on the bus yelled at him and asked if he was gay. The man then followed him off the bus, where Mr. Anthos was helping a wheelchair bound friend off of the bus. The assailant then struck Anthos in the back with a metal pipe, leaving him critically injured, lying in the snow.

The man left, without any effort to rob Mr. Anthos. This clearly was a hate crime, where Anthos was targeted because of his sexual orientation. Mr.

Anthos tragically was left paralyzed from the neck down, before he slipped into a 10-day coma. He passed away on February 23, 2007. His killer has yet to be found.

Unfortunately, Andrew Anthos has not been the only victim of a hate crime. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's latest statistics tell us that over 8,800 individuals were the victim of a hate crime in 2005. 4,900 of these crimes were racially motivated, while 1,200 were based on sexual orientation. Many of these crimes resulted in death or serious bodily harm.

No one should be targeted because of the color of their skin, their religion, their gender or their sexual orientation. We have an obligation to make America a fully inclusive nation, a country that does not tolerate bias, discrimination or bigotry.

Next week, as an original cosponsor, I will join Senators KENNEDY and SMITH in introducing the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. This bill will, for the first time, expand the definition of a hate crime to include gender, gender identity, disability, and sexual orientation. It will also allow the Federal Government to assist local law enforcement in investigation of hate crimes.

We should condemn and act against the hate crimes that have plagued our Nation and have had such a devastating impact on Andrew Anthos, and thousands of others and their families. I hope the Senate will take swift action to enact the Kennedy-Smith bill.

In addition, I hope that State governments will strengthen their own hate crime statutes to combat this growing trend. Andrew Anthos gave so much to our community, and it is essential that we give back to his memory by doing everything we can to reduce the incidence of these crimes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JANET MILLER

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize and celebrate the long record of public service by an Idaho woman who has improved the financial conditions for many of my State's residents, helped our children through countless fundraising efforts and offered of herself in a distinguished record of service as an Idaho Representative.

Janet Miller is well-known to many people in the Treasure Valley of Southwest Idaho, including the City of Boise. Janet is also well-known to many in this body; she assisted two of my predecessors in the U.S. Senate—Senator Jim McClure and Senator Dirk Kempthorne.

Janet and her late husband Don moved to Idaho from Utah back in 1966. They did not bring much with them except for their desire to help people. Janet was a founding member of the

local charity group called Working Partners. She spent more than 20 years in fundraising efforts that brought benefit to Idaho children and other charitable efforts.

Janet worked on behalf of the former Booth Memorial High School—now the Pritchett School—where I have had the pleasure to see the difference her efforts make in people's lives. She raised money for the local Salvation Army. She worked every Christmas to see that young children who may not have had a merry Christmas had a gift under the tree.

She has been very involved in politics, having met several Presidents including her hero, Ronald Reagan. She walked the halls of Congress often and has been involved in numerous political efforts.

Janet decided to give even more of herself when, after years of working behind the scenes, she stepped forward and ran for public office, and she won. She was the voice of Boise's Bench Neighborhood in the Idaho Legislature. She spoke often and was direct about the issues in the hearts and minds of her constituents. She sought consensus but was not afraid to speak out on what mattered most to the people she represented.

Janet sought to improve the lives of unwed mothers and needy children, our environment and various social concerns. She could have sat back and let rheumatoid arthritis keep her down. But that is not the kind of person Janet is. Janet is like many of us in Idaho—Independent, giving, not afraid to stand up for what is right and speak our mind when we need to.

Now, Janet is facing her final quest—to enjoy her time to the fullest with her cherished family, children and grandchildren as she fights terminal cancer.

Janet Miller gave of herself, tirelessly, over a lifetime of public service. And now, Janet, we want to give back just a little bit. I ask Janet's accomplishments be noted here in the RECORD of the Congress of the United States. •

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 800. An act to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 746. A bill to establish a competitive grant program to build capacity in veterinary medical education and expand the workforce of veterinarians engaged in public health practice and biomedical research; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 747. A bill to terminate the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 748. A bill to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. ENSIGN, and Mr. BURR):

S. 749. A bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 750. A bill to authorize to be appropriated \$1,800,000 for fiscal year 2008 to acquire real property and carry out a military construction project at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 751. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to modify certain administrative eligibility rules relating to children born in the United States to Medicaid-eligible mothers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 752. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the implementation of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species in the Central and Lower Platte River Basin and to modify the Pathfinder Dam and Reservoir; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. REED, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 753. A bill to enhance scientific research and competitiveness through the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 754. A bill to streamline and simplify the travel procedures used by Department of Defense personnel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 755. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to provide diabetes screening tests under the Medicaid program for adult enrollees with diabetes risk factors, to ensure that States offer a comprehensive package of benefits under that program for individuals with diabetes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 329

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from