

have long urged closer relations with Mexico. We have much in common, yet throughout our history U.S. policy toward Mexico has been far more one of neglect than of mutual respect and cooperation.

Whether it is trade and investment, immigration, the environment, health, science, cultural and academic exchange, human rights, drug trafficking, weapons smuggling and other cross border crime and violence—our contiguous countries are linked in numerous ways. We should work to deepen and expand our relations.

The Merida Initiative is one approach, and while I and many others would prefer that it encompassed broader forms of engagement, it is a start. Most of the funds are for law enforcement hardware and software, which is necessary but insufficient to support a sustainable strategy. As we have learned from successive costly counterdrug strategies in the Andean countries that have failed to effectively reduce the amount of cocaine entering the United States, we need to know what the Merida Initiative can reasonably expect to achieve, at what cost, over what period of time.

Senator GREGG as ranking member, and I as chairman of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee had to make difficult choices among many competing demands within a limited budget. We had to find additional funds to help disaster victims in Burma, Central Africa, Bangladesh and elsewhere, whom the President's budget ignored. We had to find additional funds for Iraqi refugees and for crucial peacekeeping, security, and nonproliferation programs. We could not have funded virtually any program at the level requested by the President without causing disproportionate harm to others, and we sought to avoid that.

Considering the amount we had to spend, the Merida Initiative received strong, bipartisan support. Again, this is not simply a 3 year program as the administration suggests. It is the beginning of a new kind of relationship, and we need to start off prudently and with solid footing.

That means the direct participation of the Congress and of civil society and attention to legitimate concerns about human rights, about monitoring and oversight, about rights of privacy, due process, and accountability. How these issues are resolved is critical to future funding for this program, and we need to work together to address them.

MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

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 strengthen and 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.

On Thursday evening, May 15, 2008, in Sacramento, CA, a 23-year-old man was sitting in his car at a gas station when he was approached by three men. According to police, one of the men asked him if he was gay and he responded that he was. When the man then exited the car, he was attacked by the three men as they yelled homophobic slurs. Micah Jontomo Tasaki, 21, Gregory Lee Winfield, 20, and Robert Lee Denor, 19, were arrested at the gas station where the attack occurred in connection with the assault. Luckily for the victim, he did not sustain injuries serious enough to necessitate a hospital visit. A Sacramento police officer investigating the crime has called it a "gay bashing" and a hate crime.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. Federal laws intended to protect individuals from heinous and violent crimes motivated by hate are woefully inadequate. This legislation would better equip the Government to fulfill its most important obligation by protecting new groups of people as well as better protecting citizens already covered under deficient laws. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, earlier this spring, I introduced legislation to address the challenge of how to deal with greenhouse gases. The bill is called the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Atmospheric Removal Act, or the GEAR Act.

Members of this body have discussed various proposals to regulate the output of greenhouse gases. Some advocate doing it through a cap-and-trade approach. Others have advocated a carbon tax. Such proposals are aimed at limiting future carbon output into the atmosphere. Many proposals have been introduced and debated using this approach of dealing with carbon output.

We want to protect our environment and we want a strong economy. The way to have both is by thinking anew and acting anew. It is time to use our untapped human potential and the American spirit to develop the technologies we need.

The Senate will soon be debating climate legislation. I believe we should identify solutions through imagination, innovation, and invention, not through limits.

It is my hope and my goal that the GEAR Act will foster the kind of solutions that we need to address the concerns about climate change.

Recently, there was a very thoughtful editorial which was printed in "Wyoming Agriculture," which is published by the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

The editorial was written by Ken Hamilton. Ken is the executive vice

president of the Wyoming Farm Bureau. I believe he does a terrific job of summing up the feelings of Wyoming people on the need to find practical "real" solutions to climate change.

I recommend it to my colleagues and ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

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

YOU CAN'T HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO

(By Ken Hamilton, WyFB Executive Vice President)

One of the first little sayings you probably heard when you were growing up was that you can't have your cake and eat it too. Generally everyone will agree that this is self evident, but that doesn't stop Americans (and probably people in other countries) from always trying to have it both ways.

This is never more evident than the actions surrounding global warming. We are continually being bombarded by pronouncements about man caused global warming (it's hovering around 4 degrees with a 25 mph breeze blowing as I write this). When I was discussing this global warming issue with a friend, he said what people need to do is stop arguing with the activists over whether there is man caused global warming and start asking them what their solutions are going to be.

The more I thought about it the more I realized the whole global warming debate is absent any discussion of real solutions. We hear vague pronouncements about a greenhouse gas tax, but not much else. And none have enough details to fully analyze what the impact will be on people. There are numerous shows on television where people are talking about reducing their "carbon footprint", but most of these solutions revolve around still living the lifestyle you want while feeling good about using a material someone has pronounced as "green."

For instance, one of the new "green" materials for flooring in houses now is bamboo. Why someone feels this is greener than oak or pine is beyond me, but nevertheless apparently it is. The interesting thing is that while everyone is talking green, they are busy building a house that's twice the square footage of a generation ago. Our grandparents lived in a house where one or two rooms had heat part of the time. In today's modern homes there is heat running to every room, plus a television set in half of them, a minimum two-car garage (heated of course) and appliances that grandma couldn't even dream about. All of these, of course have some "green" marketing gimmick attached to them, so, you guessed it, people can live in even bigger houses while feeling good about doing their part.

But if meaningful curbs in greenhouse gases must occur as they profess, then there shouldn't be houses with two-car garages. You don't find those sorts of things in third world countries where the people's carbon footprint is less than here. Dishwashers must go as well as washing machines, dryers, and central heating. In third world countries where they don't have such a big carbon footprint, health clubs are not needed, nor are double ovens.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, who is in a panic over global warming, should stop driving around in his Humvee. In fact, to adequately address this issue, he should stop driving period.

But we don't see any of this happening and probably won't in the future. The people worried about global warming are still driving to work every day. They come home to heated and air conditioned homes, turn on

their 42-inch flat panel television while getting their meal delivered by a college freshman in a fuel-efficient ¾-ton four-wheel drive vehicle so they don't have to crank up one of those double ovens and hear the latest news about climate change. Recently a weather event caused a power outage in Arnold's state and not once did I hear him say, "thank goodness, now we can start to do something meaningful about man caused global warming."

Politicians and proponents of global warming only want to personally do something about global warming if it doesn't mean a cold house in the winter or a hot one in the summer. Health clubs will still be needed because people won't walk to work and will need to get some exercise somewhere. And pine forests will grow old, die and burn while folks feel good about their bamboo floors. Thinking all along that they are getting their cake and eating it too.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO FRANK WOODRUFF BUCKLES

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, one of the most distinguished Americans living today is Mr. FRANK Woodruff Buckles. Born in Bethany, MO, on February 1, 1901, 2 years before Orville and Wilbur Wright made their historic first flight, Mr. Buckles, now 107, is the last living U.S. World War I veteran. He is truly a national treasure: Of the 2 million soldiers the United States sent to France in World War I, he is the lone survivor.

His life story is nothing short of amazing. In 1917, Mr. Buckles told his Army recruiter he was 21 years old and wanted to go to war. He was really just 16. Upon arrival in England, he convinced his superiors to send him forward to France where he would serve as an ambulance driver, carrying wounded allied troops to medical facilities.

When the war ended, Mr. Buckles was responsible for returning prisoners of war to Germany. He separated from the Army in 1920 after achieving the rank of corporal, but his service to the Nation continued as a civilian in the Philippines, where he worked for a U.S. shipping company. When the Japanese took Manila in 1942, Mr. Buckles was made a prisoner of war for the next 39 months, until his subsequent rescue by the 11th Airborne Division in 1945.

During his captivity, he developed chronic illnesses that still afflict him today. But there was no surrender then and there is no surrender today in Mr. Buckles.

Mr. Buckles remains witty and active. During a recent interview, he was asked about the circumstances surrounding his questionable enlistment into the Army. He replied with a chuckle, "I didn't lie; nobody calls me a liar . . . but I may have increased my age." I also understand he does 50 sit ups and lifts weights daily. That is more physical activity than most men my age and even younger!

Today, before Memorial Day, I ask you to join me in honoring Mr. Buckles

for all he has done for his country. The debt paid by Mr. Buckles and his fellow soldiers on behalf of future generations must never be forgotten. His life epitomizes patriotism and dedication to our nation. His incredible individual achievements and sacrifices, along with those of his fellow "doughboys," deserve our ongoing admiration and thanks.●

REMEMBERING ELWOOD "WOODY" LECHAUSSE

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I wish today to honor the life and service of Elwood Lechause of Manchester, CT, who died on Saturday May 17, 2008. Mr. Lechause, known to many as "Woody," enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1958, the day after his 18th birthday, and served with distinction in the 101st Airborne Division in both Turkey and South Vietnam.

Mr. Lechause's service to his country did not end with his departure from the military in 1965. Following his honorable discharge from the Army, Mr. Lechause dedicated himself to supporting his fellow veterans. For over 35 years, Mr. Lechause was a tireless advocate for veterans issues, serving in leadership positions in more than two dozen veterans organizations, including serving as a senior member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Trustees and the Secretary and Treasurer of the Connecticut Veterans Coalition from 1988-2002 and the Department of Connecticut Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans.

Mr. Lechause worked hard to educate his fellow Americans on the importance of honoring our veterans and recognizing the challenges they faced. Whether testifying before the U.S. Congress or speaking in the local classroom, Mr. Lechause carried himself with a vigor and passion that spoke volumes of his dedication to advocating on behalf of his fellow veterans.

In 2003, Mr. Lechause was named as a Connecticut Treasure for his work on behalf of Connecticut's veterans. In 2007, in recognition of the many lives he touched throughout nearly four decades of service, Mr. Lechause was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

Mr. Lechause was a valuable friend of my office, and all of us in Connecticut owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Lechause for his service to both his country and his fellow veterans. On behalf of the Senate, I offer my most sincere condolences to Mr. Lechause's wife, Kathryn, his children James and Ralph, and all those who were touched by his tremendous spirit. With Woody's passing, Connecticut and the Nation's veterans have lost a powerful voice that will be sorely missed.●

TRIBUTE TO LAUREL ZAKS

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate Laurel Zaks, an incredibly dedi-

cated and universally beloved and respected civil servant who died on Friday, March 28, 2008. Laurel was a public health adviser at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA, with more than 14 years international and domestic work experience as a nutritionist.

Laurel started her career in 1992 as a nutritionist in Bucharest, Romania, with the Free Romania Foundation cross-training staff in three orphanages with medical clinics in health and nutrition issues. She then took a position as a community developer in Pop Wuj, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, teaching primary health prevention strategies. She returned to the United States in 1996 where she developed and communicated policy and legislative strategy on domestic hunger for Congress and lobbied Congress on nutrition programs involving welfare reform. While in Washington, she also served as a pediatric dietitian with the Children's National Medical Center working on initial and followup nutritional assessments of HIV/AIDS and gastrointestinal disease patients.

In 1997, Laurel joined the Peace Corps volunteering in Ecuador, where she used her training as a dietitian to work with the Ministry of Health and indigenous organizations to develop training materials promoting maternal and child health and prevention of infectious diseases. Next Laurel moved to the city, Santa Domingo de Los Colorados, to work at the Center for Malnourished Children and in local communities where she served as the nutritionist/health educator working in an interdisciplinary medical team. During the last 2½ years of her Peace Corps service, she was instrumental in helping to design a new \$400,000 Children's Center for Nutrition Recuperation, which served an average of 40 families daily.

Laurel joined CDC in 2001, 1 week after finishing her Peace Corps tour in Ecuador. Her enthusiasm for making a difference in global health affected all who knew her. She worked in many areas of global health work at CDC, including planning for development of sustainable global public health management, planning for a global pandemic influenza outbreak, and serving as a team member traveling to Botswana in response to an outbreak of infant diarrhea and severe malnutrition. In 2007, she was part of a team honored for rapidly assisting 20 countries around the world to apply for pandemic influenza preparedness funds.

Laurel was an active member and leader in the Atlanta chapter of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. She gave countless hours to charitable organizations domestically and abroad, including the Manna Food Bank in North Carolina and as a charter member of the Ecuadorian Rivers Institute in Ecuador. She received various awards for her volunteer work and was bestowed the North Carolina Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in 1994.