

received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Denise Loya is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Denise Loya for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO SID OMAN

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Sid Oman, who was 81 when he passed away on Monday, April 27, 2009.

America lost a political icon with the death of Sid Oman. Sid will certainly be remembered for both his successful business and political careers. Nationally, he was recognized by President Reagan for his role in the War on Drugs, and he was widely known for being elected to serve as mayor of two cities in different states, Chesapeake, Virginia and Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

From the beginning, Sid Oman planned to be a funeral director. He founded his own business—Oman Funeral Homes—and he set the standard for the way in which he ran his business. He served as President of both the Virginia Funeral Directors Association and the Tidewater Funeral Directors Association. His business reputation led to his role as the director of General Douglas MacArthur's funeral in 1964.

Sid was so much more than a funeral director. He was a Marine, a Sunday school teacher, a marriage commissioner, and he played a leadership role in numerous civil groups committed to the communities in which he lived and worked every day, including business, health care, education, and service organizations.

Sid was deeply engaged in connecting with citizens and friends in the community through technology and media. He hosted weekly TV and radio shows, including "The Sounding Board," "The Vantage Point," "Call to City Hall," and "Mayor's Report."

In his later years, Sid's personal battle with cancer and his resilient commitment to ensuring access to cancer treatment for others resulted in Chesapeake General Hospital naming its Cancer Treatment Center in his honor.

At home, Sid was the proud husband of Lilian Callis Oman since 1947. He had two children—his daughter Susan, and his son, Robert, who followed his father's footsteps into the funeral business.

However, for Chesapeake residents he represents the personification of the office of Mayor, an office he officially held for six years, but for which he was known for the remainder of his life. Sid's love for people and his city will not soon be forgotten or easily replaced, and

his contributions to our lives in Chesapeake will live on for generations.

BRYCE LANGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bryce Lange who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Bryce Lange is a senior at Faith Christian Academy and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Bryce Lange is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Bryce Lange for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF AMY LIU

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Ms. Amy Liu for establishing the Sichuan Earthquake Relief Fund and raising over \$43,000 to aid victims of the earthquake that struck south-central China in May 2008.

From May 2 to 5, 2009, Amy Liu will be honored here, in Washington, D.C., at the 14th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. The efforts of Ms. Liu in her attempt to aid those devastated by the disaster in China are remarkable in and of themselves. Amy founded, organized, and led a month long fundraising effort that sent more than \$20,000 directly to the Chinese Red Cross, where it was redistributed for disaster relief and rebuilding. I find Amy's accomplishments in this situation to be absolutely extraordinary. Not only did she raise an incredible amount of money to help people in dire need, she served as an exemplary role model for her peers in the process.

Ms. Liu has also volunteered at the First State Chinese School, the A.I. DuPont Hospital, the Brandywine Hundred Library, and the Stand Up for What is Right and Just program. In addition, Amy was a guest of mine at a recent House Education and Labor Committee hearing entitled Renewing America through National Service and Volunteerism to discuss and examine the importance of national service in meeting some of our country's critical economic needs. At the hearing, I had the opportunity to highlight Amy's exemplary community service. I am confident that Amy will not only continue to volunteer and serve the Delaware community and people in need, but more

importantly, that she will continue to impact individual's lives in profound and meaningful ways.

I would like to thank Ms. Amy Liu for her service to the men and women who suffered in China after the May 2008 earthquake, as well as for her continual service within our greater community in the State of Delaware. I am confident that her Prudential Spirit of Community Award will only inspire her further to help more people and act as an even larger and more prominent role model for the young and old in our community.

ANNA LAZIO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anna Lazio who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Anna Lazio is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anna Lazio is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Anna Lazio for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

CONGRESSWOMAN SPEIER ENCOURAGES ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION REGISTRATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, today, 17 Americans awaiting organ transplants will die because a suitable donor was not available. These will be our mothers, fathers, children, and friends—some of the 100,000 of our fellow Americans on the national organ transplant waiting list.

But unlike so many threats that are out of our control, this is something that each of us can change simply by signing up with your state program.

Volunteering to be an organ or tissue donor is a simple, painless, and selfless act of love and generosity, the impact of which cannot be understated. A single organ donation can save up to 8 lives and the donation of one person's tissue can save the lives of up to 50 others. Each year, 28,000 men, women and children are saved through organ donation. Despite the 80 million of us who are enrolled in state donor registries, there is still a need for more.

Sadly, one-third of those on the national transplant waiting list will likely run out of time before a donor is found.

Madam Speaker, in honor of National Donate Life Month, I urge my colleagues, my constituents and my fellow Americans to register as organ and tissue donors.

ALEXANDRA LOGAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexandra Logan who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexandra Logan is a senior at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexandra Logan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Alexandra Logan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1913, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009. I would like to thank Chairman CONYERS of the House Judiciary Committee for his leadership in bringing this timely legislation to the floor. H.R. 1913 will provide assistance to state and local law enforcement and amend federal law to streamline the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. The key element of the bill is its expansion of federal jurisdiction to cover crimes motivated by bias against a victim's perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. This legislation would make tremendous strides in garnering the civil and human rights of all Americans. Its passage would secure the equal protection of all Americans under the law. It is a landmark and long overdue piece of legislation.

This is an important bill and I have introduced similar legislation in this and prior Congresses. While I support this bill and urge my colleagues to support this bill I am disappointed that the bill did not include my amendment which I offered last Congress.

MY AMENDMENT LANGUAGE IN H.R. 1592

Last Congress, I offered an amendment to H.R. 1592, the legislation that was introduced last term. My amendment was accepted by unanimous consent by the members of the Judiciary Committee. Specifically, my amend-

ment required "the United States Sentencing Commission shall study the issue of adult recruitment of juveniles to commit hate crimes and shall report such findings back to the Congress within 180 days." If this language was included in the present bill, it would only serve to strengthen it and make it better. The amendment language was intended to gather information on adults that solicit and use youth in the commission of hate crimes. This issue arises with respect to hate groups such as the Skinheads, Neo-Nazis, KKK, and other similar type groups.

H.R. 1913 is legislation aimed at combating hate crimes. Because the bill addresses hate crimes, it is necessary to define the criminal actions that constitute a hate crime in the first instance. The definition is straightforward. Hate crimes involve the purposeful selection of victims for violence and intimidation based upon their perceived attributes. Such targeting for violence removes these actions from the protected area of free expression of belief and speech as enshrined in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The crimes are investigated and prosecuted at both the Federal and State and local level, depending upon the facts of the case and the needs of the investigation.

For those individuals that will ask why this law is necessary, let me remind of a few incidents that have occurred in recent memory that demonstrate that this bill is indeed necessary.

Texas' violent history dates to the late 19th century when it was among the South's most lynch-prone states. At least 355 people, most of them blacks, died in Texas mob violence between 1889 and 1918.

Laws outlawing mob and less lethal hate crimes have since been passed, but incidents with possible racial components have continued to occur—even in Jasper, a city with a black mayor and a population that is 45 percent African-American.

In Texas, Austin came in fourth among cities in the number of hate crimes reported in 2006, according to a FBI compilation that canvassed agencies representing 85 percent of the nation's population. Documented are 7,722 criminal incidents involving 9,080 offenses resulting from bias against race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity/national origin, or physical or mental disability. Of 5,449 "crimes against persons", intimidation accounted for 46 percent of hate crimes, simple assault 32 percent, and aggravated assault 21.6 percent. Three murders and six rapes were reported. The report lists offenders as 58.6 percent white, 20.6 percent black, 12.9 percent race unknown, and the rest as other races.

JAMES BYRD

Let me remind you of James Byrd. On June 7, 1998, Byrd, 49, accepted a ride from three men named Shawn Allen Berry, Lawrence Russell Brewer, and John William King. He had already known one of them. Instead of taking him home, the three men beat Byrd behind a convenience store, chained him by the ankles to their pickup truck, stripped the man naked, and dragged him for three miles. Although Lawrence Russell Brewer said that Byrd's throat had been slashed before he was dragged, forensic evidence suggests that Byrd had been attempting to keep his head up, and an autopsy suggested that Byrd was alive for much of the dragging and died after his right arm and head were severed when his body hit

a culvert. His body had caught a sewage drain on the side of the road resulting in Byrd's decapitation.

King, Berry, and Brewer dumped their victim's mutilated remains in the town's black cemetery, and then went to a barbecue. A wrench inscribed with "Berry" was found within the area along with a lighter that had "Possum" written on it, which was King's prison nickname.

The next morning, Byrd's limbs were scattered across a very little-used road. The police found 75 places littered with Byrd's remains. State law enforcement officials along with Jasper's District Attorney Guy James Gray and Assistant Pat Hardy determined that since King and Brewer were well-known white supremacists, the murder was a hate crime, and decided to bring in the FBI less than 24 hours after the discovery of Byrd's remains. One of Byrd's murderers, John King, had a tattoo depicting a black man hanging from a tree, and other tattoos such as Nazi symbols, the words "Aryan Pride," and the patch for the Confederate Knights of America, a gang of white supremacist inmates. In a jailhouse letter to Brewer which was intercepted by jail officials, King expressed pride in the crime and said he realized he might have to die for committing it. "Regardless of the outcome of this, we have made history. Death before dishonor. Sieg Heil!", King wrote.

An officer investigating the case also testified that witnesses said King referenced The Turner Diaries after beating Byrd.

Brewer and King were sentenced to death. Berry received life in prison.

THE PERPETRATORS

John King—accused of beating Byrd with a bat and then dragging him behind a truck until he died. King had previously claimed to have been gang-raped in prison by black prisoners and, although he had no previous record of racism, had joined a white-supremacist prison gang, allegedly for self-protection. The testimony phase of his trial started in Jasper, Texas on February 16, 1999. He was found guilty of kidnapping and murder on February 23 and was sentenced to death on February 25.

Lawrence Russell Brewer—another white supremacist convicted of murdering Byrd. Prior to the Byrd murder, Brewer had served a prison sentence for drug possession and burglary, and he was paroled in 1991. After violating the parole in 1994, he was sent back to prison. According to his court testimony, he joined a white supremacist gang with King in order to safeguard himself from other prisoners. A state psychiatrist testified that Brewer did not appear repentant for his crimes. In the end, Brewer was also sentenced to death.

Shawn Allen Berry—The driver of the truck, Berry was the most difficult to convict of the three defendants because there was a lack of evidence to suggest that he himself was a racist. He had also claimed that his two companions were entirely responsible for the crime. Brewer testified that it was Berry who cut Byrd's throat before he was tied to the truck, but the jury decided that there was little evidence to indicate this. As a result, Berry was spared the death penalty and given a life sentence in prison.

MATTHEW SHEPARD

Matthew Wayne Shepard was a student at the University of Wyoming who was tortured and subsequently murdered near Laramie,