

PROJECT SPONSORSHIP
CORRECTION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, as Chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, science, and Related Agencies, I rise today to clarify for the record the sponsorship of a congressionally-designated project included in the explanatory statement accompanying H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009, Public Law 111-8.

Specifically: Senator FEINSTEIN should not be listed as a cosponsor of the San Francisco district attorney "Back on Track" Byrne discretionary grant through the Department of Justice, since she did not request this funding. Senator FEINSTEIN's name was added as a cosponsor of this project through a clerical error.

MATTHEW SHEPARD HATE CRIMES
PREVENTION ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to show my support for the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009.

On June 15, 2009, Stephen Johns was killed in the U.S. Holocaust Museum. On February 12, 2008, Lawrence King, a 15-year-old student, was murdered in his high school because he was gay. On election night 2008, two men went on an assault spree to find African Americans, because then-Senator Obama won the Presidential election. In July 2008, four teenagers brutally beat and killed a Mexican immigrant while yelling racial epithets. Hate crimes continue to occur in our country every day. According to recent FBI data, there were over 7,600 reported hate crimes in 2007. That's nearly one every hour of every day. Over 150 of those incidents occurred in my own home State of Maryland.

The number of hate crimes occurring across the country is likely underestimated. At least 21 agencies in cities with populations between 100,000 and 250,000 did not participate in the FBI data collection effort for the 2007 report. Additionally, victims may be fearful of authorities and may not report these crimes. Local authorities may define what constitutes a hate crime differently than other jurisdictions. But what we do know is that hate crimes are occurring and have increased toward certain groups of individuals.

According to the recent Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund Report, entitled "Confronting the New Faces of Hate," hate crimes against Latinos has been increasing steadily since 2003. This marked increase also closely correlates with the increasing heated debate over comprehensive immigration reform. There was also a five year high in victimization rates in 2007 toward lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals. That number has increased by almost 6 percent. The number of White suprema-

cist groups has increased by 54 percent and African Americans continue to experience the largest number of hate crimes, with an annual number essentially unchanged over the past 10 years. While religion based offenses decreased, the number of reported anti-Jewish crimes increased slightly between 2006 and 2007.

The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act is a necessary and appropriate response to this ongoing threat to our communities. Currently, 45 States and the District of Columbia have enacted hate crime laws and have taken a stand against hate in their States. Thirty-one of those States have already included sexual orientation in their definition of what constitutes a hate crime. Twenty-seven States and the District of Columbia prohibit violent crimes based upon a victim's gender. States have a patchwork of hate crimes statutes which leaves gaps which need to be filled in order to have an effective response and prosecution of these crimes. The Federal Government has a clear responsibility to respond to hate crimes. Current Federal hate crime laws are based only on race, color, national origin and religion. We need to include gender, disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Current law also requires the victim to be participating in a federally protected activity, like attending school or voting. Those who commit hate crimes are not bound to certain jurisdictions and neither should the people who prosecute them, which is why this legislation removes the requirement that a victim be participating in a federally protected activity. The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act will make sure all Americans are equally protected against hate crimes.

The American public supports this goal. According to a Gallup poll from 2007, 68 percent of all Americans support extending hate crime protection to groups based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including 60 percent of Republicans, and 62 percent of individuals who frequently attend church. This legislation also enjoys the support of 43 Senators from both sides of the aisle. The legislation has also already passed the House of Representatives.

This legislation will also provide necessary resources to our State and local governments to fight hate crimes. Specifically, it will provide grants for State, local and tribal law enforcement entities for prosecution, programming and education related to hate crime prosecution and prevention. The bill will assist States and provide them with additional resources, not diminish their role in managing criminal activity within their State. The bill supplements state and local law enforcement efforts.

Additionally, and most importantly, the legislation was carefully drafted to maintain protections for Americans' first amendment rights. Nothing in this legislation diminishes any Ameri-

can's freedom of religion, freedom of speech or press, or the freedom to assemble. The Supreme Court has already ruled that such laws do not obstruct free speech. Let me be clear, the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act targets violent acts, not speech.

Hate crimes affect not just the victims; they victimize entire communities and make residents fearful. We cannot allow our communities to be terrorized by hatred and violence. I encourage my fellow colleagues to support the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICINE
BOW, WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the town of Medicine Bow, WY. The town eventually became the setting for the classic Western novel by Owen Wister, "The Virginian."

Medicine Bow's history began decades before its incorporation on June 26, 1909. The town's name originates from the mountains surrounding the area. American Indians would annually travel to the foot of the Medicine Bow Mountains to obtain wood that was excellent for arrows. According to the Native Americans, anything that is perfect for the purpose for which it is intended is called "good medicine."

The Union Pacific Railroad routed tracks through the valley because the Medicine Bow River was an ideal place for a pumping station. Steam engines would pause to take on a load of water before roaring across the prairie to the east or over the mountains to the west. The railroad not only produced what is now known as the town of Medicine Bow, but it also created economic opportunities. Wyoming's booming cattle industry necessitated stock yards in Medicine Bow. The town became an important shipping center for cattle headed to the eastern market and a great place for cowboys to congregate after gathering their herds.

The wood in the Medicine Bow forest was excellent not only for arrows but also for railroad ties. Every year, tie hacks cut hundreds of thousands of railroad ties and mining props from the mountains at the head of the river. The material was then floated down to a river boom, a mile from the Medicine Bow Station. These ties were pulled from the river and shipped to supply America's swiftly expanding railroad network.

The tie hacks and the cowboys played a vital role in the development of Medicine Bow's untamed reputation. It was this reputation as one of the West's wildest towns that brought famous novelist Owen Wister to Medicine Bow. Following his stay in Medicine Bow, Wister authored the classic Western novel, "The Virginian." In his novel, he mirrored more than just the setting of the town. His plot was a fictionalized story about the Johnson

County War in Wyoming, told from the cattle barons' point of view. Even Wister's famous line from the novel was not original. The phrase, "When you look at me smile," came from a local man named William Hines. His novel brought fame and recognition to Wyoming's culture and history. In 1913 the Virginian Hotel was built by August Grimm and named after Wister's novel. To this day, visitors from all over the world enjoy a nice meal and a comfortable night's sleep at the Virginian.

The area surrounding Medicine Bow has long been host to several energy industries. Coal and uranium mines brought jobs to the area. Presently, wind turbines secure Medicine Bow's future and contribution to the America's energy market. Without a major interstate nearby, the Medicine Bow Valley has been able to secure and maintain its majestic western roots. Modernization may sweep through, but valleys like the Medicine Bow remind us of the Old West legacy.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the town of Medicine Bow, I invite my colleagues to visit this historic place. I congratulate the citizens of Medicine Bow who steward this important piece of Wyoming's history and present it to visitors from all over the world.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING REVEREND GEORGE POULOS

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the extraordinary service and remarkable character of Reverend George Poulos of the Church of the Archangels in Stamford, CT, who recently retired after over a half decade of service.

Reverend Poulos has come to hold a special place in our hearts and minds over his 53-year career. Over the years, he has been a spiritual father and friend to thousands of Connecticut families. As parish priest for Church of the Archangels, Reverend Poulos has officiated over 2,000 baptisms, 1,000 weddings, and 800 funerals. Although his formal tenure as parish priest ended earlier this week, Reverend Poulos remains intimately connected to the birth, life, and remembrance of the Stamford community. I have known Reverend Poulos for many years and treasure the example he has set in his career of devoted service; I am grateful for all the wisdom he has offered me personally.

The Church of the Archangels where Reverend Poulos served as parish priest is a magnificent structure built in the 11th century Byzantine style; in fact, it is the only true Byzantine-style church in the Western Hemisphere. As a 16-year-old, I watched the amazing structure emerge just down the street from the house where I grew up. When you enter the church, the left side wall reads: "AGIASON TOUS AGAPONTAS

THN EFPREPEIAN TOU OIKOU SOU," which means, "Bless those who love the beauty of thy house." Reverend Poulos has offered us a rare kind of love that helps the Stamford community practice reverence, celebrate growth, and appreciate all the beauty of this life.

Our State and this Nation are blessed to have leaders like Reverend Poulos in our communities. As he retires from his church to spend time with his wife Christine, his five sons, and six grandchildren, I thank him for his service and assure him that his important contributions and generous spirit will never fade from our memory.●

REMEMBERING H.A. "RED" BOUCHER

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as our colleagues know, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Alaska's admission to statehood. Earlier this year I had the privilege to speak at a number of events to kickoff the 50th anniversary celebration. I marveled at the fact that so many of Alaska's statesmen and stateswomen—the people who led Alaska from a frontier territory to a modern and vibrant state—are still with us today. The founding fathers and mothers of so many of our States are just names in a history book. In contrast, the founding fathers and mothers of Alaska are not remote historical figures, but our friends and neighbors. Alaska's history is very much a living history. That is a source of great pride to me and to all Alaskans.

Yet every year, it seems, we lose another piece of Alaska's living history as those who played a significant role in the statehood fight and the early growth of our 49th State pass on. Today it is my sad duty to acknowledge the loss of Red Boucher, the first elected lieutenant governor of Alaska. Red died last Friday at the age of 88. This Friday the people of Alaska will celebrate Red's life at a memorial service in Anchorage.

Everyone who knew Red knew of his persuasive gifts. Born in Nashua, NH, he grew up in St. Vincent's Orphanage in Fall River, MA, where he was placed at age 9 after his father's death in 1930. Seven years later Red, who was barely 16 years old, talked his way into the U.S. Navy. He served for 20 years, including all of World War II. After he left the service he ended up in Fairbanks, where in 1958 he established one of Interior Alaska's first sporting goods stores. But sports was only one of his passions. Politics was clearly another.

Following service on the Fairbanks city council and as mayor of the city of Fairbanks, Red served as lieutenant governor of Alaska under Governor Bill Egan from 1970 to 1974.

After his term as lieutenant governor, Red did not disappear from public service. During his nationwide travels from 1976 to 1980 at the behest of

the Citizens for Management of Alaska's Lands, Red met with hundreds of newspaper editorial boards, winning acclaim for his strong reasoned arguments for why the Arctic Coastal Plain should be left open to oil and gas development if an environmental impact statement proved it could be developed without environmental harm. Many credited Red's efforts as the reason that ANWR's coastal plain was not locked up as wilderness when ANILCA was enacted in 1980. He returned to Juneau in 1985 representing an Anchorage district in the Alaska House of Representatives. And in 1991 Red was elected to the Anchorage Assembly.

In the minds of many Alaskans these significant contributions are relatively minor. They would regard Red's creation of the Alaska Goldpanners, Fairbanks' summer baseball team, as his most enduring accomplishment. He managed the team from 1960 to 1969. During the 1964 and 1965 seasons Red managed a young pitcher named Seaver, Tom Seaver.

The alumni list of the Alaska Goldpanners reads like a "who's who" of Major League Baseball. In fact, nearly 200 Goldpanner alumni have gone on to play in the majors. Then there was Dan Pastorini who pursued a career in football as quarterback for the Houston Oilers, Oakland Raiders, Los Angeles Rams, and Philadelphia Eagles.

The Alaska Goldpanners continue to delight Alaskans and visitors from around the world each summer at Crowden Memorial Field. At the time of his death, Red was the director of external affairs for the team.

Two days after Red's passing, at 10:30 P.M. on the evening of Sunday, June 21, his beloved Goldpanners took the field against the Lake Erie Monarchs. It was Fairbanks' 104th annual Midnight Sun Game, game played each year to commemorate the Summer Solstice. That game ended in the wee morning hours of Monday, June 22, with a 6-3 victory for the "Panners." Red's still watching out for them.

In his later years Red championed bringing modern telecommunications and computing technologies to the remotest parts of Alaska. He hosted a statewide cable television show called "Alaska On Line." I was proud to be Red's guest on more than one occasion. We discussed ANWR and the need to construct a pipeline to transport Alaska's abundant natural gas supplies to market.

The formula for "Alaska On Line" was simple: Invite interesting guests and let them tell their stories. These shows are virtual oral histories of Alaska. In fact, many of the tapes have already been acquired by the University of Alaska Anchorage Consortium Library for use by historians and scholars.

Red Boucher lived every day to the fullest enriching the lives of his fellow Alaskans in innumerable ways. I join with Red's family and all Alaskans in mourning the loss of this exemplary Alaskan.●