

to help ensure that the Freedom of Information Act one of the most important tools by which the press can obtain critical information about what our government is doing is not hindered by excessive delays.

A few days ago, President Obama observed that “in the last months, we’ve seen journalists threatened, arrested, beaten, attacked, and in some cases even killed simply for doing their best to bring us the story, to give people a voice, and to hold leaders accountable. And through it all, we’ve seen daring men and women risk their lives for the simple idea that no one should be silenced, and everyone deserves to know the truth.”

As we celebrate World Press Freedom Day, we are reminded that an open and accountable society comes with not only the right of its citizens to know the truth but the duty to empower themselves with that knowledge. All of us—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—have an interest in preserving press freedoms and protecting the public’s right to know. Enacting the Faster FOIA Act will help to accomplish this goal. For this reason, I strongly encourage all Members to join me in celebrating World Press Freedom Day and in supporting this very important bipartisan bill.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF ALL AMERICANS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I recently joined Senator DURBIN and Senator GRAHAM at an important Senate Judiciary Committee hearing focused on the civil rights of American Muslims. This bipartisan hearing was a positive statement from the committee that its members believe strongly that all Americans enjoy the rights and freedoms provided by our Constitution and our civil rights laws.

Today, I wanted to highlight a recent column written by the U.S. attorney in Cleveland, OH, Steven Dettelbach, which addressed the same subject. As one of our leading Federal prosecutors, Mr. Dettelbach is known for protecting the people of northern Ohio by enforcing our Federal laws. But he is also known for his wise counsel which is no doubt why the Attorney General selected him to serve on his advisory committee.

At the Attorney General’s direction, several U.S. attorneys have been trying to better understand the needs of American Muslims. This is a laudable initiative, given that there have been attacks targeting the American Muslim community in the past few years.

To make matters worse, some leaders have sought to sow fear and divisiveness against American Muslims. Fanning the flames of hate against those with different faith traditions runs contrary to our American values because this Nation was founded in large part on the importance of religious freedom.

In his April 29 piece, Mr. Dettelbach wrote, “Our enemies seek not only to

kill our citizens and destroy our cities, they also want to attack the most fundamental American principle of all—our free, open and diverse society. We cannot and will not let them succeed.”

I could not agree more.

All Americans deserve civil rights protections and the freedoms provided in the Constitution. This does not end with the vital protections afforded by the first amendment. It continues to ensure due process and equal protection. It is bolstered by important civil rights laws that we have passed to protect the practice of religion without discrimination.

Religious freedom has long been a bipartisan issue in the Senate, but more importantly it has been a consistent American value. American Muslims, like all Americans, must be protected by the rule of law that upholds these constitutional and statutory protections.

I agree with Mr. Dettelbach when he noted that, “[w]e find ourselves facing foreign-based terrorists, including al-Qaida, seeking to radicalize people here in the United States in new ways. Using sleek ad campaigns on the Internet, these terrorists try to recruit Americans to attack their neighbors. We must counter these efforts, but must do it wisely and without sacrificing our ideals.”

As the President said when he announced the news that the world’s No. 1 terrorist was dead, Osama bin Laden was not a Muslim leader. He had killed scores of Muslims. I hope that in the coming days, we will not see misguided passions lead to more attacks on American Muslims. In order to live up to our American values we must protect all Americans from attack. I thank the President and the Attorney General for their unwavering leadership on civil rights issues.

I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Dettelbach’s short article be printed in the RECORD. I hope all Senators will read it.

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

[From the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Apr. 29, 2011]

OHIO’S MUSLIM, ARAB NEIGHBORS (By Steven M. Dettelbach)

Those of us in law enforcement know all too well that terrorists continue to target the United States. We have seen the dangerous consequences take hold in places like Fort Hood, Texas, and Times Square in New York, and even reach here in Ohio, where our office and the FBI prosecuted a homegrown terror cell plotting to kill Americans abroad. Preventing these kinds of attacks is our top priority.

Our enemies seek not only to kill our citizens and destroy our cities, they also want to attack the most fundamental American principle of all—our free, open and diverse society. We cannot and will not let them succeed.

We find ourselves facing foreign-based terrorists, including al-Qaida, seeking to radicalize people here in the United States in new ways. Using sleek ad campaigns on the Internet, these terrorists try to recruit

Americans to attack their neighbors. We must counter these efforts, but must do it wisely and without sacrificing our ideals.

Some, however, have wrongly resorted to portraying American Arab or Muslim communities, or the Islamic faith itself, as a threat to our country. While we must repel attempts by foreign terrorists to radicalize Americans, vilifying Islam or all Arab-Americans will not make our nation safer. Indeed, suggesting these Americans are less loyal than their countrymen is not only inaccurate and irresponsible, it also adds an air of legitimacy to violent extremism of another kind: directed not by American Muslims and Arabs, but at them.

In the past year, a passenger stabbed a New York cabbie after learning he was Muslim, and an arsonist in Tennessee burned a mosque, among other examples. Such acts are not only illegal, they are also profoundly at odds with one of our nation’s bedrock values: “E pluribus unum,” or “Out of many, one.”

Stigmatizing Muslim communities not only contradicts our nation’s commitment to religious freedom, it also makes it easier for al-Qaida to radicalize Americans. Since the day a band of religious refugees stumbled off their ship near Cape Cod in what eventually would become the commonwealth of Massachusetts, practitioners of every faith have come and worshiped freely in this country.

Acts of violence and hostility against American Muslims risk obscuring these truths and feeding the enemy’s false narrative that America is at war with Islam.

We must recognize that American Muslim and Arab communities are a vital part of the solution to the problem of radicalization. Terrorists do not radicalize entire communities; they recruit individuals. American Muslims and Arabs who recognized threats have worked with law enforcement when they suspect a problem. For this we owe them gratitude, not sideways glances.

In an effort to improve communication, collaboration and trust with Muslims and Arab-Americans, I have been part of a group of U.S. attorneys across the country having a series of conversations to better understand the needs of these American communities. The people of these communities should understand that the Department of Justice is here to protect them.

I have met with hundreds of American Muslims in Northern Ohio over the past few months. Not surprisingly, they want for their children what everyone wants—a good education, freedom from bullying and the opportunity for their children to grow and become productive citizens.

I heard troubling stories from parents whose children’s trust in this country was shaken by various indignities suffered in our community, which they perceived to have stemmed from their religion or ethnicity. This is wrong. It is not the Ohio I know and love, and none of us should stand silently by and tolerate such intolerance.

I heard from doctors, architects and workers who have a deep love for their nation. I spoke with their American-born children who, just like the youth in our Irish, Italian and Eastern European communities, are working on their resumes, fiddling far too much with their Blackberrys and who think of themselves as American more than anything else—because that is who they are.

Law enforcement alone cannot eradicate the root causes of terrorism and hate crimes. Each of us must do all we can to forge lasting relationships with our Muslim and Arab neighbors. We need to affirm loudly that they, too, are Ohioans, our neighbors in a wonderfully diverse state that thrives on its many faiths, languages and ethnicities.

2011 AMERICAN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION STARS OF LIFE

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of the emergency medical services, EMS, profession all across the country who dedicate their lives to providing lifesaving health care and first responder services to people in need.

In particular, I would like to recognize the 81 EMS professionals being recognized today by the American Ambulance Association as “Stars of Life.” These 81 Stars of Life will be on Capitol Hill for the next couple of days, and I strongly encourage my colleagues to take the time to meet with these exceptional individuals.

Every year, the dispatch of an ambulance is the first response to millions of medical emergencies. Often, the survival of a patient is enhanced by the prompt medical attention provided by paramedics and emergency medical technicians, EMTs, prior to the arrival at an emergency room. As a result of the selfless acts of these courageous and devoted men and women, the lives of thousands of Americans are saved each year. While these professionals do not expect to receive recognition for

their work, they deserve our outmost gratitude.

For the past 20 years, the American Ambulance Association has honored those paramedics, EMTs, dispatchers, and other ambulance service personnel who exemplify what is best about the EMS field. The American Ambulance Association has appropriately designated these individuals as “Stars of Life.” Past Stars of Life have included paramedics and EMTs who were part of the rescue efforts at the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center or provided evacuation and response to the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the recent flooding and storms in the South and Midwest. Of equal importance, this program also pays tribute to those ambulance service personnel whose heroic acts or community service activities may not have made the news but were just as meaningful to the people they aided. I consider myself fortunate to have met with many Vermont paramedics and EMTs over the years, and I have heard firsthand accounts of the tireless efforts that they perform on a daily basis for their communities. They are truly America’s health care safety net.

One of the Stars of Life from Vermont left a lasting impression on

me. His name was Dale Long—a 2008 Stars of Life awardee. Just several weeks after I had the opportunity to meet him, Dale was killed in the line of duty as a paramedic with the Bennington Rescue Squad. Since Dale was employed by a private nonprofit agency, he was not covered by the Department of Justice’s Public Safety Officer Benefit, PSOB, program—even though his agency is the 9–1–1 emergency ambulance service agency for Bennington, VT. In honor of Dale, I introduced the Dale Long Emergency Medical Services Provider Protection Act, S. 385, which would make paramedics and EMTs who work for a private nonprofit EMS agency eligible for the PSOB program. In February, the Senate unanimously approved the Dale Long Act as an amendment to the FAA reauthorization bill, and I am hopeful that the Dale Long provision will be retained in the final conference report.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the names of the 2011 American Ambulance Association Stars of Life honorees be printed in the RECORD.

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

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	COMPANY	CITY	STATE
Daniel	Griswold	Arizona Ambulance Transport	Sierra Vista	AZ
John	Sullivan	Arizona Ambulance Transport	Sierra Vista	AZ
Michael	Atwell	American Medical Response	Victorville	CA
Michael	O’Grady	American Medical Response	San Mateo	CA
Kevin	Smith	American Medical Response	Sonoma	CA
Gary	Smotrys	American Medical Response	Palm Springs	CA
Forrest	Uhland	American Medical Response	San Mateo	CA
Thomas	Westbrook	American Medical Response	Concord	CA
Matt	Berckefeldt	American Medical Response	Pueblo	CO
Autumn	DePolo	American Medical Response	Colorado Springs	CO
Chris	Erickson	Ute Pass Regional Ambulance District	Woodland Park	CO
Jim	Hollman	Ute Pass Regional Ambulance District	Woodland Park	CO
William	Broadbridge	Hunter’s Ambulance Service	Meriden	CT
Kelly	Brunell	Hunter’s Ambulance Service	Meriden	CT
Marisa	Carriveau	American Medical Response	West Hartford	CT
Katrina	Perrelli	Hunter’s Ambulance Service	Meriden	CT
John	Pourciau	American Medical Response	Waterbury	CT
Jared	Yager	Hunter’s Ambulance Service	Meriden	CT
Donald	Anderson	American Medical Response	Broward County	FL
Thomas	Dawiczkowski	Nature Coast EMS	Lecanto	FL
Marvin “Happy”	Montgomery	Mid Georgia Ambulance	Macon	GA
Tito	Villanueva	American Medical Response	Lihue	HI
Jane	Hagen	Iowa EMS Association	Urbandale	IA
Nathan	Wilzbacher	American Medical Response	Evansville	IN
Steven	Simon	Acadian Ambulance Service	Lafayette	LA
Todd	Weir	Acadian Ambulance Service	Lafayette	LA
Michelle	Borden	Action Ambulance Service	Wilmington	MA
Christopher	Borges	Cataldo Ambulance Service	Somerville	MA
Theodore	Crosby	Action Ambulance Service	Wilmington	MA
Clayton	Davis	Cataldo Ambulance Service	Somerville	MA
Kris	Keraghan	Armstrong Ambulance Service	Arlington	MA
Ann	McGrath	Armstrong Ambulance Service	Arlington	MA
Jeff	Simmons	Cataldo Ambulance Service	Somerville	MA
Angela	Spofford	Action Ambulance Service	Wilmington	MA
Martin	Tyrell	American Medical Response	Brockton	MA
Rachael	Goeman	American Medical Response	Grand Rapids	MI
Robert	Kirkland	Community EMS	Southfield	MI
Matt	Mills	LifeCare Ambulance Service	Battle Creek	MI
Erik	Olsen	Life EMS Ambulance	Grand Rapids	MI
Velvet	Whitt	Tri-Township EMS	Atlanta	MI
Tracy	Woodard	Huron Valley Ambulance	Ann Arbor	MI
Michelle	Anderson	Lakes Region EMS	North Branch	MN
Todd	Fisk	Lakes Region EMS	North Branch	MN
Brian	Murley	Mayo Clinic Medical Transport	Rochester	MN
Tommy	Walker	American Medical Response/Abbott EMS	St. Louis	MO
Derek	Poole	American Medical Response	Jackson	MS
Thomas	White	American Medical Response	Natchez	MS
Cathy	Jordan	Medic, Mecklenburg EMS Agency	Charlotte	NC
Virgil	Leggett	Medic, Mecklenburg EMS Agency	Charlotte	NC
Jamie	Stanford	Medic, Mecklenburg EMS Agency	Charlotte	NC
Marnie	Olson	North Dakota EMS Association	Bismarck	ND
Keith	Monaghan	American Medical Response	Egg Harbor Township	NJ
Jessica	Bauer	REMSA	Reno	NV
Debi	Kubiak	REMSA	Reno	NV
Leonard	Spice	American Medical Response	Las Vegas	NV
Mark	Camplese	Community Care Ambulance	Ashtabula	OH
Jason	Fellows	Community Care Ambulance	Ashtabula	OH
Shane	McKenzie	Community Ambulance Service	Zanesville	OH
Beth	Sundman	Community Care Ambulance	Ashtabula	OH
Ron	Causby	EMSA	Tulsa	OK
Mark E	Hopping	Life EMS	Enid	OK
Mike	McWilliams	Oklahoma Ambulance Association	Muskogee	OK