

remembered him to have always treated citizens with respect and dignity, while also being a loyal partner and friend.

While our hearts break for those who knew him, we also respect and admire Corporal Cooper for his lifetime of service. He truly was someone who ran toward danger in order to protect others. Corporal Cooper was a hero, and today we honor his sacrifice. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Ruth, his son Scott, along with many other family members, friends, and colleagues in the law enforcement community.

I humbly and sincerely offer my condolences and my gratitude to them as they grieve for Bill. Bill was a classmate of mine at the Northside High School in Fort Smith. We as a class are very, very proud of him for his sacrifice, for our safety, but also, and certainly as important, the way he lived his life. May we always remember Corporal Cooper's life and legacy of service.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today the U.S. International Trade Commission, or the USITC, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. That makes today an appropriate day for us to acknowledge the distinguished service that this independent and nonpartisan Federal agency has provided, and continues to provide, in the field of international trade.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I concur with Senator HATCH and also congratulate the USITC on its centennial and commend the agency for its service over the last century.

Established by the Congress as the U.S. Tariff Commission on September 8, 1916, the agency was reconfigured and redesignated as the USITC by the Trade Act of 1974. As mandated by Congress, the USITC performs three principal functions: No. 1, fairly and objectively administer U.S. trade remedy laws within its mandate; No. 2, provide the Congress, the President, and the United States Trade Representative with independent analysis, information, and support concerning matters related to international trade, tariffs, and U.S. competitiveness; and No. 3 maintain the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

By successfully executing these functions, the USITC performs a valuable service to the U.S. Government and the American people. Those of us in Con-

gress particularly appreciate the highly technical data and analyses that the USITC provides to help inform our formulation of U.S. trade policy.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, of course, the core of the USITC's success derives from the agency's people. For decades now, the impressive and skilled commissioners and staff at the USITC have driven the agency's success. We congratulate the USITC for reaching this centennial milestone and for accomplishing a well-deserved tenure of valuable and professional service.

RECOGNIZING THE JEFFERSONTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT ANGEL PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have spoken many times on this floor about the threat that opioid abuse represents to our country. Rates of substance abuse have been on the rise in recent years, and Kentucky has been hit particularly hard by this epidemic. A recent State report from the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy said that, last year, over 1,200 deaths in the Commonwealth were caused by drug abuse.

Well, I am glad to share with my colleagues some good news in the fight against opioid abuse in Kentucky. This August, I visited with and saw up close a program that is changing how law enforcement deals with drug addiction, a program that is saving lives. It is the Jeffersontown Angel Program, an initiative spearheaded by the Jeffersontown, KY, Police Department.

At the Jeffersontown Police Department, a priority has been placed on getting treatment for folks who request help for their addiction to opiates by connecting them with local treatment facilities. In many cases, those with substance-abuse disorders can be taken immediately to a treatment facility to start their recovery. People who abuse drugs can also turn over their drugs or drug equipment without being charged with a crime.

The new Jeffersontown Police Department Angel Program is the first of its kind in Kentucky. It is modeled after a successful program launched in Gloucester, MA, in 2015, which has so far referred more than 450 people to treatment and produced a 33 percent reduction in property crime rates.

That evidence was enough to convince Jeffersontown Police Chief Ken Hatmaker. "When you can have a 33 percent drop in property crime," he says, "I'm going to listen."

While the Jeffersontown Police Department remains strenuously committed to investigating, pursuing, and arresting drug traffickers to the fullest extent of the law, the Angel Program helps reduce those traffickers' clientele by working to remove the stigma of addiction and making it easier to access recovery programs.

Fighting drug abuse is a cause I have embraced here in the Senate as well, and it has been a focus of mine for

many years. I have traveled throughout the Commonwealth speaking with people, learning about the scope of substance abuse in my State, and working with Kentuckians to combat it.

A few years ago, I convened a listening session in northern Kentucky, a region particularly hard hit by this epidemic, to hear from informed Kentuckians in the medical, public health, and law-enforcement fields. I testified before the Senate's Drug Caucus to share my findings with my colleagues.

I have also met with the Nation's Director of National Drug Control Policy—better known as the drug czar—and successfully persuaded him to visit Kentucky to see firsthand the damage done by drugs. His visit and greater Federal funding for law enforcement in Kentucky have both been a part of a multilayered strategy to stop drug trafficking.

I also made it a priority to pass the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA, a bill I was proud to see recently signed into law. CARA is a comprehensive approach to tackling the opioid drug epidemic that bolsters treatment, prevention and recovery efforts, and gives law enforcement tools to help those already suffering with addiction and help prevent more senseless loss of life.

CARA authorizes new grants for vital, lifesaving programs to help treat those suffering from drug addiction. It also includes several important policy reforms. It will expand treatment by giving prescribing authority to nurse practitioners and physician assistants to administer medication-assisted treatments for opioid addiction. It will increase the availability of naloxone, which can instantly reverse a drug overdose, to law enforcement agencies and other first responders. And it will strengthen and enhance prescription drug monitoring programs to crack down on "doctor shopping."

Substance abuse destroys lives. It increases crime, rips apart families, and leaves too many bodies in its wake. I want to commend the Jeffersontown Police Department for launching the Angel Program and leading the way in Kentucky in efforts to battle substance abuse. With the good work done by the Jeffersontown Police Department, along with the continued efforts we are doing here in Congress, I believe we can fight back against this scourge of addiction, and reduce its devastating effects.

The Louisville Courier-Journal recently published an article describing the Jeffersontown Police Department's Angel Program. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From The Louisville Courier Journal, Aug. 25, 2016]

J-TOWN'S NEW STRATEGY TO COMBAT ADDICTION

(By Amanda Beam)

Sgt. Brittney Garrett wants to save lives through changing attitudes.

Her influence can be seen in the waiting area inside the Jeffersontown Police Department, the law-enforcement agency for which she works. Pamphlets about overcoming substance abuse and local addiction support groups can be found on most every table there.

This lobby welcomes with acceptance, not doubt, supporting the revolutionary initiative Garrett has embraced.

It's called The Angel Program, and it's redefining the way law enforcement views drug addiction.

Through cooperation with community partners, the initiative gives resources to people searching for sobriety.

During their intake hours of 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, the J-Town PD serves as a conduit to connect those who seek therapy for their addiction with providers who can access and provide treatment for their needs. Folks, in most cases, will be immediately taken to a treatment facility to begin their recovery.

People who use can also turn over drugs for disposal to the police without fear of reprisal.

"The hard part isn't coming in," Garrett said of those who enter the station to obtain assistance. "The hard part is getting through your treatment."

Certain exclusions do apply. If you have an active warrant, a felony sex conviction, a violent history or are under 18 years old, you may not qualify. Garrett invites those with questions to phone the station at (502) 267-0503.

Since the program's August 1, 2016 start, seven people have entered the program and been placed directly into residential rehab facilities.

No wait lists. No jail. No criminalization of their illness. Just help is received.

"We have to find innovative ways to deal with the heroin problem," said Garrett, the Angel Program Coordinator. "A lot of it comes down to just being empathetic, compassionate and educated of what we're dealing with."

A NATIONAL SCOURGE

What J-Town and other communities across the nation are dealing with is an epidemic. Heroin use continues to rise, and overdoses soar. Jefferson County on average experiences one overdose death each day.

In addition to health concerns, crime has risen in the town of about 27,000. Increased thefts, general incidence reports and car accidents occur as ramifications of drug use. Garrett has even seen an uptick in more serious offenses as well.

"Especially on the level of law enforcement, when you deal with people with substance abuse disorder on the street, it's always bad. It's never good. It's someone committing a crime," Garrett said.

"It's hard for us to see the human side of addiction, that you committed a crime because of your addiction."

But humanizing those with substance-abuse issues is a hallmark of the program's creation.

THE BEGINNING

The Gloucester Police Department in Massachusetts established the now national initiative in 2015, with the aim of targeting the demand side of the drug problem. Get help for those who are addicted so they stop using, and both supply and crime should go

down too. Furthermore, law-enforcement agencies would face less strain on their limited resources, and be able to concentrate on serious criminal cases.

Not only did they find these actions more compassionate, but also more successful.

So far, roughly 400 people have been referred to treatment facilities through the Gloucester program. As predicted, drug-related crimes in the surrounding area fell by more than 30 percent. Costs for treatment also fall far below the price of housing prisoners, providing another incentive.

"If you have a choice between a bed in incarceration, or a bed in treatment, I'm for the bed in treatment," said Jeffersontown Police Chief Ken Hatmaker.

Enforcement still remains important, he added. When people break the law, consequences must be faced.

But providing treatment opportunities to those suffering from substance-use disorder can stop many of the more serious crimes from happening in the first place, a balancing act between service and enforcement that Hatmaker has learned to embrace.

"That's what it took for me to buy in was the education," the chief said. "When you can have a 33 percent drop in property crime, I'm going to listen."

THE IMPACT

Changing perceptions isn't always easy for law enforcement or those who find themselves addicted. At times, both face stereotypes. The program aims to correct these biases and facilitate greater communication between the police department and the larger community.

"People tend to believe that (substance-abuse disorder) is a moral failing, that people chose to have a life of destruction, which couldn't be further from the truth," said Tara Moseley, a recovery advocate and Angel Program volunteer.

Moseley understands the impact of addiction. For more than five years, the 30-year-old Louisville resident has been in recovery. Now, through her work in organizations like Young People in Recovery and the Angel Program, she tells others with the illness that better days can be in their future.

"People need to know there is a way out and that there is hope," she said. "A program like the Angel Program, they actually do all that stuff for you. They're going to help you and take you where you need to go and make sure you are in somewhere and it's right now."

The immediacy of the initiative plays a key role in its ingenuity. Those seeking assistance oftentimes face long wait lists to get into residential treatment. Not so with the Angel Program.

"Unfortunately, as it relates to the drugs of choice today, it's very possible they are risking their lives by waiting on a waiting list," said Jennifer Hancock, president and CEO of Volunteers of America (VOA) Mid-States, a non-profit partner of Angel Program.

In addition to providing a staff member to help with the station's intake center three days a week, VOA also has placed several of the referrals from the program into its facilities.

"It's important that we strike while the iron is hot and make sure we're providing them with immediate access. Otherwise . . . then they're waiting without the security and safety net of a very structured and accountable program, and it's extremely common that they will continue using."

Through several different initiatives that focus on specific populations, VOA maintains 185 residential treatment beds in Louisville and Lexington. More, though, are needed. Only additional funding can alleviate the overwhelming demand.

And that's the tricky part.

The J-Town Angel Program only facilitates people finding treatment. Funding of that treatment remains with the patient and the medical provider. Some facilities have pledged scholarships to the program, and many others can enroll patients in Medicaid or work with them to manage costs if they can't afford the treatment.

But funding doesn't come close to meeting the demand.

"If we have people lined up at our door, that's great," Garrett said. "But if we can't take them somewhere because there are no beds available, no funding for these treatment centers, we're just turning people away at that point and doing the opposite of what we're wanting to do."

Current legislation in Congress called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act could give more money to address these broader funding problems for treatment initiatives. But until that occurs, the Angel Program will do its best to continue combatting the effects of the addiction epidemic one life at a time.

"We've always been counselors and social workers as law enforcement, mediating conflict and these types of things, but this is a whole new level," Garrett said. "We're entering into a new realm."

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is hard to believe that 15 years ago this Sunday the Twin Towers fell, smoke from the Pentagon could be seen from miles away, and a plane went down in a Pennsylvania field. For those who lived through that horrible day, the memory still feels fresh.

Of course, this is especially true for those who lost loved ones. This weekend, Americans across the country will gather to remember the thousands of innocent lives that were taken so callously and indiscriminately in those terrorist attacks. And we remember the first responders, law enforcement, intelligence, and military personnel who work every single day to keep our country safe.

This year, we must also take a moment to remember the spirit that united us in the days after the attacks. Americans of all races, religions, and backgrounds stood together in solidarity to support one another and stand against the cowardice of terrorism. Following the attacks, President George W. Bush visited a mosque. At a joint session of Congress, he reminded Americans that "no one should be singled out for unfair treatment or unkind words because of their ethnic background or religious faith." In the years after September 11, our country did not always live up to those words, but we must remember the ideals, values, and humanity that sustained us through those first dark days.

In today's political environment, it is easy to lose sight of that common spirit. Some are trying hard to divide us. A Federal judge has been accused of bias because of his ethnic heritage. Religious and ideological tests for visitors to the United States are discussed as though they are serious policy proposals. The sacrifices of war heroes and