

and to send a message to the American people that hate crimes will not be tolerated.

Again, I want to commend the people of Jasper, Texas for coming together in this time of tragedy and saying no to hate in their community. Their actions of reconciliation are an example for all of us to follow in times of moral crisis.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOSPITAL CORPS OF THE U.S. NAVY

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today is the 100th anniversary of the Hospital Corps of the United States Navy. On June 17, 1898, President McKinley established the Hospital Corps which has recorded an illustrious history of service to the nation. The men and women who serve and have served as corpsmen have honored the nation, the Navy and themselves. They have upheld the highest traditions of service to the nation.

As a group, corpsmen have been the most highly decorated men and women who have served in our nation's military. Every day they put their lives at risk in the course of performing one of our highest callings as human beings, the preservation and protection of life.

Individually, during the course of their 100 year history, 1962 corpsmen have paid the ultimate price while administering to their wounded comrades on the battlefield. Twenty-seven times, their actions were so extraordinary that the individual was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

There is a little known fact about a widely hailed piece of American history. On February 23, 1945, six young men raised our national colors on top of Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima. A world renowned photograph was taken and this photograph became a symbol of the self-sacrifice and devotion to duty of the United States Marine Corps and our nation's military in general. What is little known is that the second young man from the base of the flagpole, was a U.S. Navy corpsman. Only days before, that young man, Pharmacist Mate Second Class John Bradley, during the assault of Iwo Jima, pulled a young Marine to safety and bandaged his wounds while braving severe machine gun and mortar fire from a determined enemy. For his actions, Pharmacist Mate Bradley was awarded the Navy Cross. This extraordinary individual as with his other compatriots in that photo is even more extraordinary because of his anonymity. They were there for the photo by chance, they became the symbol we so readily recognize by a twist of fate. But they carried out their duties as thousands of other young Americans had done before them and since, in the most terrible of circumstances.

Corpsmen have been the protective blanket our soldiers, sailors, and Marines have relied upon in their times of greatest distress. They have been there for them to heal their wounds, to fend off the battlefield's angels of death,

and sometimes to comfort them as life ebbed away. Corpsmen are representative of the best of our ideals. It is in that spirit I call upon my colleagues and all Americans to remember their significant contribution to our nation and celebrate this day in recognition of their service.●

SIGNING OF THE BULLETPROOF VESTS PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday I had the privilege to attend the signing ceremony at the White House for the Bulletproof Vests Partnership Grant Act, S. 1605, with Attorney General Reno, Vice President GORE and President Clinton, who signed the bill into law.

I was honored to be joined at the ceremony by Vermont State Police Captain A. Marc Metayer and Springfield, Vermont Police Chief Barbara Higgins, who represented state and local law enforcement officers in my home state. Captain Metayer spoke on the importance of this new law and introduced the President of the United States.

I am very proud of the remarks of Captain Metayer and I ask that his remarks be printed at this point in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

REMARKS OF CAPTAIN A. MARC METAYER, TROOP "B" COMMANDER, VERMONT STATE POLICE, JUNE 16, 1998

I am honored to have the opportunity to speak at the signing of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998. I would like to thank Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont and Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado for their efforts in making this life-saving grant a reality.

As Senator Leahy knows, the need for body armor for Vermont law enforcement officers was highlighted by the two-state manhunt for Carl Drega, last August. Drega killed four people in Colebrook, New Hampshire, including New Hampshire State Troopers Scott Phillips and Leslie Lord. He then traveled into Vermont where he wounded four more officers during two separate encounters. Drega was killed in the final exchange of gunfire with a combined force of Vermont, New Hampshire and Federal law enforcement officers.

I know these circumstances from first hand experience. I was the on scene incident commander for the Vermont State Police when Drega was finally stopped.

The Drega incident brought home the fact that no area of the country, regardless of its remote nature, is immune from senseless violence: violence against our citizens and violence against our law enforcement officers. Law enforcement officers must be prepared for such violence at any time, and any place.

The Drega incident erupted from a regular traffic stop in which the Troopers were going to remove registration plates from Drega's vehicle. Moments later, two Troopers were dead, horrifying their families and their communities. All from an activity which law enforcement officers perform countless times each day: a traffic stop for a minor violation.

In the twenty years that I have served as a Vermont State Trooper, I have worn body armor as a part of my daily routine. For those twenty years, I have personally purchased successive vests since the State did not provide them. I have been fortunate

enough to be in a financial position that allowed me to make these important purchases. But I have known many officers, most with young families, who simply could not afford to purchase body armor.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act will provide the funding to assist police departments with the purchase of body armor for their officers. Every state in the nation has communities that need this help to provide their law enforcement officers with this basic protection. In the end, this new law will save the lives of law enforcement officers in each and every state.

Thank you to all that have made this important contribution to the safety of police officers around the country.

I am now honored to introduce the President of the United States, President Bill Clinton.●

TRIBUTE TO THE NEWBROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT IN HONOR OF THEIR FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, July 5, 1998, is a great day for Vermont as we celebrate the fiftieth birthday of the Newbrook Fire Department. On behalf of all Vermonters, I want to wish the department a very happy birthday.

For a half-century, the volunteers at Newbrook's Fire Department have donated their time to provide fire protection to Vermonters living in the lower West River Valley area. These volunteers continually risk their lives to protect the welfare of others. The Newbrook Fire Department also responds to medical emergencies and, through the years, has earned the reputation as one of Vermont's most efficient volunteer response teams. This is truly admirable. I applaud such dedication and have the utmost respect for Newbrooks' courageous volunteers.

The Newbrook Fire Department is a vital part of the Newbrook community and its surrounding areas. For fifty years, the Department has given prompt and reliable service to people in the most distressing situations. It gives me great pleasure to recognize today fifty years of service and achievement of the Newbrook Fire Department and, more importantly, the volunteers who support it.●

LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

● Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, today, I want to speak on an issue of critical importance to my state of Nebraska. Whenever I travel back to the Good Life, what Nebraskans call their home, the one issue that always percolates to the top of any conversation is the lack of affordable housing, and this issue can dominate any spirited civic dialogue in our smaller communities throughout the state.

Talking with city officials, economic development groups, community planners, chambers of commerce representatives, and any of the town people who are deeply concerned about the prospects of their community, it is apparent to me, as sure as the Nebraska summer sky is blue, that more needs to be done to make sure communities