

can undertake “perimeter” screening with our partners, Canada and Mexico. Further, the bill requires the Department of State, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Office of Homeland Security to report to Congress within 90 days on how best to facilitate sharing of information that may be relevant to determining whether to issue a U.S. visa. Our borders are only as secure as the borders of those countries whose citizens we allow into our country without a visa.

The provisions we have achieved in the USA Patriot Act laid the foundation for more specific provisions to assure the best use of technology to improve the security at our borders. This bill fulfills the promise of the USA Patriot Act to assure information sharing will be thoughtfully implemented in short order.

With the enactment of the USA Patriot Act of 2001, the federal government committed to developing a visa technology standard that would facilitate the sharing of information related to the admissibility of aliens into the United States. I proposed this language recognizing that, for many years, the U.S. law enforcement and intelligence communities have maintained numerous, but separate, non-interoperable databases. These databases are not easily or readily accessible to front-line federal agents responsible for making the critical decisions of whether to issue a visa or to admit an alien into the United States.

To build on and fulfill the goals of establishing this standard, this bill will do three things. First, it will require technology be implemented to track the initial entry and exit of aliens travelling on a U.S. visa. We know now that several of the terrorists who attacked America on September 11th were traveling on expired visas. We have had the law in place for several years now, but due to concerns about maintaining the flow of trade and tourism across our borders—concerns I share—the provisions of Section 110 have not been fully implemented. Technology will address those concerns, allowing electronic recordation and verification of entry and exit data in an instant.

Second, I believe it is necessary to require the Department of State and Justice to work with the Office of Homeland Security to build a cohesive electronic data sharing system. The system must incorporate interoperability and compatibility within and between the databases of the various agencies that maintain information relevant to determining whether a visa should be issued or whether an alien should be admitted into the United States. This legislation will require interoperable real-time sharing of law enforcement and intelligence information relevant to the issuance of a visa or an alien’s admissibility to the U.S. The provision will require that information is made available, although with the appropriate safeguards for pri-

vacy and the protection of intelligence sources, to the front-line government agents making the decisions to issue visas or to admit visa-holding aliens to the United States.

Keeping terrorists out of the U.S. in the first place will reduce the risks of terrorism within the U.S. in the future. Aliens known to be affiliated with terrorists have been admitted to the U.S. on valid visas simply because one agency in government did not share important information with another department in a timely fashion. We must make sure that this does not happen again.

Until now, we had hoped that agencies would voluntarily share this information on a real-time and regular basis. This has not happened, and although I know that the events of September 11 have led to serious rethinking of our information-sharing processes and procedures, I think it is time to mandate the sharing of fundamental information.

Advancements in technology have provided us with additional tools to verify the identity of individuals entering our country without impairing the flow of legitimate trade, tourism, workers and students. It is time we put these tools to use.

Improving our national security is vitally important, but I will not support measures that compromise America’s civil liberties. The bill we are voting on today includes a number of safeguards to protect individuals’ rights to privacy. The bill provides that where databases are created or shared, there must be protection of privacy and adequate security measures in place, limitations on the use and re-dissemination of information, and mechanisms for removing obsolete or erroneous information. Even in times of urgent action, we must protect the freedoms that make our country great.

I urge a favorable vote.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER JOHN F. TIMONEY

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the long and distinguished career of one of our Nation’s top police executives, Philadelphia Police Commissioner John F. Timoney.

Commissioner Timoney will leave the Philadelphia Police Department in early January, and I want to highlight some of his achievements. I believe John’s record of achievement will benefit America’s police officers for years to come.

John Timoney immigrated to the United States from Ireland at the age of 13. In 1969, after graduating from high school, he joined the ranks of the New York Police Department. He spent the first twelve years of his career as a patrol officer and later a narcotics investigator on the streets of Harlem and the South Bronx. As his reputation for integrity, innovation, and perseverance grew, he rose through the department’s

management structure, eventually assuming the position of Chief of Department, the highest ranking uniformed position in the department. It was during Mr. Timoney’s tenure in the upper echelons of the NYPD that New York’s crime rate began to drop precipitously, due in no small part to the new management structure he instituted, merging the Housing and Transit Police Department with the NYPD. In 1996, upon his departure from the NYPD, then-Chief Timoney had accrued over 65 Department Medals, including the prestigious Medal of Valor.

After retiring from the NYPD, John entered the world of private security consulting, and offered his expertise and advice to law enforcement authorities all across the country and around the world. He served as Vice Chairman of the Irish Commission on Domestic Violence, and he advised Britain’s Patton Commission, which focused on policing Northern Ireland.

In March of 1998, Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell appointed John Commissioner of the Philadelphia Police Department. His tenure in that position was marked by the same commitment to excellence and improvement which characterized his career in New York. John brought the innovative Compstat system to Philadelphia, and helped to reinvigorate the department. Running a department of 7,000 officers and 900 civilian employees is no easy task, and Commissioner Timoney’s efforts to modernize the department have been rewarded by a decline in Philadelphia’s crime rate.

While I thank John profusely for what he has done to make the streets safer for millions of New Yorkers and Philadelphians, I rise today for another reason: to thank Commissioner Timoney for the lessons that his expertise and experience have taught the entirety of the law enforcement community. While his achievements as a cop on the beat deserve our thanks, I want to make special mention of the contribution he has made to our understanding of how police departments can better employ their resources to combat crime across the country.

Commissioner Timoney’s career in the upper echelons of law enforcement have been marked by two major paradigm shifts. Without them, law enforcement would not be nearly as successful. And because Commissioner Timoney’s work represents what I think is the best of law enforcement—because I believe that we at the Federal level ought to encourage and promote police departments around the nation to promote just this kind of progress—I want to draw special attention to it.

First, Commissioner Timoney was at the forefront of efforts to get both the New York and Philadelphia Police Departments to embrace Compstat, a high-tech system which allows police departments to monitor and analyze crime data better, empowering them to re-deploy resources as needed.

Compstat was revolutionary policing in both New York and Philadelphia, contributing to dramatic crime reductions in both cities.

Second, Commissioner Timoney has been an outspoken proponent of community policing, which was an integral portion of 1994's crime bill. The Commissioner has set a high standard in the practice of policing multi-ethnic and multi-racial communities by empowering precinct captains and other officers in local areas to develop constructive relationships with members of the communities they police. I've always believed that the more integrated cops are with the communities they serve the better. Commissioner Timoney has lived that principle, and the great accomplishments of his career are due in no small part to his promotion of community policing.

I am grateful to be able to call John Timoney a friend. The people of Philadelphia will miss his law enforcement expertise, the police officers of his department will miss his extraordinary leadership, and the nation's law enforcement executives will lose one of their brightest lights. Good luck in your future endeavors John. A grateful and safer nation thanks you for your service.

WHISPERS OF LIBERTY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to take a minute to bring to the attention of this great body the words of Rachel Bennett. Rachel is a 13-year old constituent who has written "Whispers of Liberty," a moving poem about the events of September 11. These terrorist attacks had a profoundly sobering effect on most of the world. As Americans we were forcefully reminded of the ideals and principles which unite us as a nation. I have read and heard many explain the significance and aftermath of September 11, but few have done so as well as Rachel. She poignantly reminds us of the dreams that were shattered by the terrorists, while at the same time she reminds us of the values and ideas that have rallied Americans to help one another deal with these tragedies. I would like to read this poem for the record:

WHISPERS OF LIBERTY

(By Rachel Bennett)

How could a moment
So change everything?
A speechless nation
Cried out in despair
In unison as one.
How could in a moment
So many lives be put out,
Like a field of flowers
Closing in the mid of summer
Never to bloom again?
And in that moment,
How many chances
Of being a grandfather,
A husband, a mother
Of knowing the joys
Of life and love
Be gone?
Like a candle
Doused with tears of despair,

Our nation wept
For the twin brothers
Who know lie in a
Silent reverie
As two lions
Suddenly tamed
A ghastly graveyard
Of pride and greatness.
Yet buried within
The solid and proud
Red, white, and blue
Of American pride.
A stoic symbol
Of freedom and unity
In a world
Of stricken terror.
Its red, the blood of
The innocent whose
Lives were stolen from them;
Its white,
Purity and strength;
And its blue, the melancholy tears
Of sadness.
These bands of red
And white
Bring us together
As one.
A single
Voice declaring freedom
And a fearless life
For all the world.
Strength resonating
From the richness
Of the colors
Bind us together
In a single dance
Of peace and
A single whispered word—
Liberty.

WILLIAMSON, WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to express my deepest gratitude to and admiration for the citizens of Williamson in Mingo County, West Virginia for their generosity and sacrifice on behalf of others. Their donation of approximately \$26,000 to the "Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund," to aid the children of those lost in the terrorist attacks on our country over three months ago, is symbolic of the tremendous compassion and unity of the American people. I would like to thank the citizens of Williamson on behalf of all the families who will be able to take advantage of this scholarship fund. They have reached deep into their hearts and pockets to send the children affected by the September 11 attacks a truly beautiful gift.

Earlier this month, I met with Williamson Mayor Estil "Breezy" Bevins, Fire Chief Grover "Curt" Phillips and Police Chief Roby Pope when they presented \$26,000 in donations in Senator BYRD's office. Shortly after September 11, the City Council voted to donate \$5,000 to the victims of the attacks on the World Trade Center. Over \$15,000 was collected on September 14 through a "boot drive" where police officers, firefighters and others took to the streets to stop cars to collect money. As I told Mayor Bevins, Williamson's tremendous efforts and energy symbolize the spirit of "small-Town America."

I suggested that the town consider sending their donations to the "Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund,"

which former President Clinton and former Majority Leader Bob Dole chair together. The Fund provides educational assistance for the children and spouses of those killed or permanently disabled in the terrorist attacks of September 11. I would like to thank my friend and colleague Senator ROCKEFELLER for contacting my office to seek guidance on directing the donations. I am very grateful to Senators BYRD and ROCKEFELLER for joining me in receiving the people of Williamson's donation earlier this month.

This small town in southern West Virginia, thousands of miles away from the Twin Towers, has experienced its own share of adversity, including a devastating flood in 1977. Perhaps Williamson's struggle to overcome its own set of hurdles has made the citizens there especially sympathetic to the tremendous obstacles that the people of New York City are facing. At the same time as Williamson has reached out to those affected by the terrorist attacks in New York City, they are working to tackle financial difficulties in their own backyard and I applaud their efforts. An aggressive economic development effort is underway to secure a wood products park, most aquaculture and a stronger market for coal.

Many Americans have felt a personal need in their everyday lives to reach out to their neighbors, coworkers or even strangers to offer assistance, both large and small. We saw it in New York with people standing in line for hours to donate blood, and with families donating food to rescue workers who were toiling around the clock, or companies who wanted to contribute funding and resources. "What can I do to help?" is a common, if not universal refrain that Americans have spoken, or thought quietly to themselves, since the attacks. The people of Williamson have matched those noble words with action, and New Yorkers thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their outpouring of compassion.

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." During this time of tremendous grief and anxiety that's being felt in all corners of the world, the citizens' of Williamson efforts to ensure that children who have been affected by these terrible attacks are not forgotten will provide comfort to many and inspiration for us all.

RETIREMENT OF U.S. ATTORNEY JAMES TUCKER

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, one of the best and most respected attorneys to have ever served in our State as an assistant U.S. Attorney is retiring. James Tucker has served the U.S. Department of Justice in the Southern District of Mississippi for 30 years.

I have an enormous amount of respect and appreciation for the way James Tucker has carried out the important responsibilities of his job. He