

Population Activities. Failure to do so would set an unfortunate precedent.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JOHN H. MORENO AND ALL FALLEN HEROES

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, last month I attended the dedication of the Massachusetts Vietnam War Memorial in Worcester, MA where I joined my fellow veterans and their families to memorialize the 1,537 heroes from Massachusetts who gave their lives in Vietnam.

During the ceremony, I was passed a copy of a poem Mrs. Eileen Moreno wrote in honor of her son, Sergeant John H. Moreno, whose name graces the Place of Names in Worcester. John Moreno, who grew up in Brookline, loved baseball and the Red Sox, and planned to attend art school so that he could teach art at an elementary school, was like so many brave young men and women who gave so much to their families, communities, and country.

With her compelling tribute to her son, Mrs. Moreno reminds us all of the high price of freedom, a price paid both by the soldiers who went thousands of miles away to protect our Nation and the families who remember their loved ones. I thank her for passing along these words of tribute and respectfully ask unanimous consent to print her poem, "Memorium—Elegy for a Son," in the RECORD so that others may read her beautiful words.

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

MEMORIUM—ELEGY FOR A SON

Yes, we still grieve.
In the stillness of the night
Echos the silent primal howl
of rage and refusal to believe.
In private moments of the day to day
We weep our quiet tears;
Sorrow does not lessen with the
passage of the years.
Oh, yes we weep and hide our
desolation with words like duty,
gallantry and pride.
Still we cry.
For the bright, sweet child who was,
We cry.
For the valiant man he became,
We cry.
We grieve.
With dry and sighting eyes
We weep tears that can't relieve.
For his loneliness, his fear, his pain
Knowing our aching, empty arms
Cannot hold him close again,
We cry.
But for the solace that it gives,
In the love he left for us in our care
And in his memory we'll forever share
Still he lives—Eternity is his legacy.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT
OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator

KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred July 16, 2001 in Newmarket, NH. Thung Phetakoune, 62, a man of Laotian descent, died of injuries he suffered in an attack apparently motivated by racial hatred. According to authorities, Richard Labbe, 35, assaulted the victim amid an anti-Asian tirade. Phetakoune died from injuries stemming from a fractured skull, subsurface bleeding, and swelling of the brain.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN
ALASKA

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, a recent article from the New York Times describes the infestation of spruce bark beetles on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. This is another aspect of global climate change that has deadly implications in my state. On the Kenai Peninsula, the spruce bark beetle has infested nearly 95 percent of the spruce trees, which represents about four million acres of dead or dying forest. Some scientists believe that a succession of warm years in Alaska has allowed spruce bark beetles to reproduce at twice their normal rate. This warming trend in Alaska has coincided with a huge outbreak of these beetles and the death of a forest nearly twice the size of Yellowstone National Park. This terrible situation, in one of my state's most beautiful tourist destinations, has created a dangerous environment for a large scale fire in this region.

Over half of the people of Alaska live in the path of this fire.

The Forest Service, under the previous Administration, in my State would not permit the selective cutting of infested trees, which would have mitigated, if not stopped, the outbreak of the deadly beetle. When timber sales were offered in this area extreme environmental lawsuits stopped any removal of the ever growing fuel load. My state is now in a very dangerous situation—eight years of beetle kill stands in the forests on the Kenai Peninsula and the insect continues to spread.

This article demonstrates that. I call it to the attention of the Senate because of the emphasis placed on fires already started in the West and that are ongoing.

This is the most deadly situation I have ever encountered in terms of potential fire and the hazard in this enor-

mous area—4 million acres of dead or dying trees caused by this beetle. I think it ought to be dealt with by all concerned. I hope we have some money in the regular bill for this matter.

I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD. I call it to the attention of the Senate.

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

[From the Science Times, June 25, 2002]

ON HOT TRAIL OF TINY KILLER IN ALASKA

(By Timothy Egan)

SOLDOTNA, Alaska—Edward Berg has a pair of doctorates, one in philosophy and another in botany, but for the last decade he has been a forensic detective in the forest, trying to solve a large murder mystery.

The evidence surrounds him on his home in the Kenai Peninsula: nearly four million acres of white spruce trees, dead or dying from an infestation of beetles—the largest kill by insects of any forest in North America, federal officials say.

Beetles have been gnawing at spruce trees for thousands of years. Why, Dr. Berg wondered, has this infestation been so great? After matching climate records to the rate of dying trees, Dr. Berg, who works at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, believes he has come up with an answer.

He says a succession of warm years in Alaska has allowed spruce bark beetles to reproduce at twice their normal rate. Hungry for the sweet lining beneath the bark, the beetles have swarmed over the stands of spruce, overwhelming the trees' normal defense mechanisms.

If Dr. Berg is correct—and he has won many converts as well as some skeptics—then the dead spruce forest of Alaska may well be one of the world's most visible monuments to climate change. On the Kenai, nearly 95 percent of spruce trees have fallen to the beetle. Now, conditions are ripe for a large fire and could lead to bigger changes in the ecosystem, affecting moose, bear, salmon and other creatures that have made the peninsula, just a few hours' drive from Anchorage, a tourist mecca.

"The chief reason why the beetle outbreak has been the largest and the longest is that we have had an unprecedented run of warm summers," said Dr. Berg, 62 a soft-spoken man in suspenders and running shoes.

Temperatures in Alaska have risen sharply in the last 30 years, causing sea ice to break up off the northern coastlines, some glaciers to recede and permafrost, to melt. But until Dr. Berg began matching raising temperatures to the number of trees killed by beetles, no one of had tied the death of a forest nearly twice the size of Yellowstone National Park to warming temperatures.

Dr. Berg believes the larger culprit is global warming, brought on by increased emissions of greenhouse gases, which trap heat in the atmosphere. But that is a bigger debate, one which Dr. Berg's findings for other forests vulnerable to bugs is that as climate warms in the north, some species of evergreen trees that cover vast acreage could be mowed down by an ever-expanding population of beetles.

The dead spruce forest of Alaska is also a lesson, to some ecologists, of how warmer temperatures present intractable problems for living things anchored to a certain area. People can adapt, or even more, but trees that have been growing in one area for 8,000 years cannot—at least not quickly enough.

Other scientists who work on global warming issues are now looking at Dr. Berg's findings.