

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I have enjoyed my colleague's remarks, and although we have our differences on some of them, I appreciate her diligence and effort. I have a lot of respect for her.

I will say that continually asking to go off the Estrada matter for other matters really concerns me, because I think it is a failure to recognize that this is one of the most important nominees and one of the most important positions in the country. There is one way to get off of this nomination, and that is to vote up or down, instead of filibustering. Do what has always been done in the past in these matters and bring this issue to a vote. Then we can go to these important economic matters and other matters as well.

I have been concerned, because I remember when the minority leader and the minority whip came on the floor last week and basically said: Why are we not on economic issues?

I did get very upset because I thought that is nice for them to say that, but they were not even willing to do a budget last year because it takes a lot of guts to do a budget. We always did. Last year was the first time in the history of the Budget Act that the majority party refused to do a budget. We know why. Because they made a lot of cheap shots against us when we had to make those tough decisions on the budget. Then all of a sudden they found they were in a position where shots could be taken against them, cheap or otherwise, and they were not able to get together on their side because they had so many factions on their side that did not agree.

So it is easy to criticize, but you better have a better standing to criticize than what I think they have.

Also, the reason we had to have this omnibus appropriations bill after the first of the year is because our colleagues on the other side could not pass the appropriations bills. We did it in a matter of weeks after we came into power this year. I think that is something the Republicans deserve a great deal of credit for. Our colleagues on the other side deserve some criticism for it.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that

violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred January 5, 2002 in Tacoma, WA. Three gay men were attacked and another woman shot in a nightclub parking lot. When the three men walked to the nightclub parking lot, they were confronted by two or three other men in a truck who asked "Are you gay? Are you gay?" The men in the truck said that it was a "straight parking lot" and demanded that the gay men leave. The men in the truck then approached the victims and began beating them. A woman and her husband came to the aid of the victims, and the assailants shot the woman once in the chest. The bullet traveled through her chest and lodged in her cheek. She was treated at a local hospital and was later released.

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 is 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.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to one of our most essential and enduring national endeavors: the Peace Corps.

Last Friday, February 28, was National Peace Corps day. While the Senate was not in session on Friday, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Peace Corps—an institution that is certainly deserving of our praise and support.

As my colleagues are aware, it is always with tremendous fondness and pride that I speak of the Peace Corps. It gives me occasion to recall my own years as a volunteer in the Dominican Republic. Indeed, I have often spoken of how these 2 years changed my life. Living and working outside of the United States and seeing the way other nations operated for the first time, I grew to appreciate our Nation more and more, and developed a strong sense of what it means to be an American. I was proud to share my experience as an American citizen with the people I was there to help. Those 2 years were invaluable to me, and truly brought home to me the value of public service.

It was 42 years ago when President Kennedy laid out his vision for the future of American volunteer service. Speaking of a corps of committed and idealistic young volunteers who would travel all over the world "promoting world peace and friendship," he saw public service as an ideal to transcend political rhetoric. Peace Corps volunteers were not to reflect particular Republican or Democratic ideology. Rath-

er, their service would be a manifestation of the core American values we all share.

Since 1961, more than 168,000 Americans have responded to President Kennedy's call, and the Peace Corps now sends more than 7,000 volunteers to 76 different countries every year. This means that there are 7,000 important American liaisons scattered around the world helping people and promoting American values. In fact, the need for such ambassadors—people who truly show the world the best of America—has never been greater. Especially in these difficult and tumultuous times, I believe that an increased Peace Corps presence in regions with significant anti-American sentiment could help to foster greater mutual understanding and tolerance between Americans and the communities they serve.

After all, these volunteers are really the heart and soul of the Peace Corps. They are the ones on the front lines, working hard, making one-on-one connections with the citizens of the countries in which they work. For 42 years, they have brought a wealth of practical experience to communities in Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the Pacific. And, I believe it is important to recognize that the enduring success of the Peace Corps is rooted in each volunteer's commitment to leave behind skills that allow people to take charge of their own futures.

The Peace Corps is a truly remarkable institution in America, a symbol of the very best of our ideals of service, sacrifice, and self-reliance. I believe that we must provide sufficient resources for the Peace Corps so that it can increase the number of volunteers in the field and continue its noble mission. National Peace Corps Day honors its volunteers, past and present, and reaffirms our country's commitment to helping our friends and neighbors throughout the world. Mr. President, in recognition of National Peace Corps day and in light of the special service this institution performs for our nation and the global community, I reaffirm my strong support of and commitment to this invaluable institution. I hope my colleagues and fellow Americans will do the same.

I thank the President. ●

#### IN MEMORY OF BARBARA COY

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, my office encountered a loss this past weekend. My first military fellow, Lt. Col. Tim Coy, U.S. Air Force, lost his wife after a battle with cancer. Barbara Louise Coy, age 43, passed away in Woodbridge, VA, on Saturday, March 1, 2003. She was born on July 30, 1959, at Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, CA, she graduated from Hampton High School, Hampton, VA. She accompanied Tim on his many military assignments to Nevada, Wyoming, California, Colorado, and Virginia. She leaves behind her husband of

25 years, Timothy W. Coy, her son, Brian T. Coy, and daughter, Laura M. Coy.

While Tim and his family were only with my office for a year in 1998, he is still like family in the office. And just how an office becomes a family, we all mourn with Tim and his during this difficult time. Our prayers and thoughts are with Tim, Brian, and Laura Coy.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government for taking extraordinary actions to protect and restore Kentucky rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands along with initiating innovative local pollution prevention programs. For their efforts, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman recently presented the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government with the Clean Water Partner Award for the 21st Century at EPA headquarters in Washington, DC.

In keeping with President George W. Bush's celebration of the Year of Clean Water, the EPA's Office of Water has recognized the best contributions by local agencies to protect watersheds and uphold the requirements of the Clean Water Act. The success of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government should not go unnoticed.

Their accomplishment in developing the Reforest the Bluegrass program enables local citizen volunteers to make improvements to the environment. The program educates volunteers on the importance of riparian buffers in relation to storm water pollution, urban forests, and wildlife diversity.

Mr. President, the men and women of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government have earned our admiration and respect for their hard work and determination. I am proud the Commonwealth of Kentucky is served so well by such dedicated public servants. Their example should be followed by others in order to further improve our water quality and environment.●

#### TRIBUTE TO HOOSIER ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a group of young Indiana students who have shown great educative achievement. I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the winners of the 2002-2003 Eighth Grade Youth Essay Contest, which I sponsored in association with the Indiana Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Insurance Companies. These students have displayed strong writing abilities and are outstanding young Hoosier scholars. I will submit their names for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because they demonstrate the capabilities of today's students and are fine representatives of our Nation.

This year, Hoosier students wrote on the theme, "Growing Nutrition Right Here In Indiana." I would like to submit for the RECORD the winning essays of Caitlin Dunn and Ryan Nigh. As State winners of the Youth Essay Contest, these two outstanding students are being recognized on Friday, February 28, 2003, during a visit to the United States Capitol.

The essays are as follows:

#### GROWING NUTRITION RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

(By Caitlin Dunn—Jay County)

Don't leave the table.

Stay in your seat.

An event of magic

Is yours to meet.

With the wave of my wand

And a magical spell,

The nutrition grown in Indiana

Will help you stay well!

Our magical journey begins with an ordinary deck of cards. "Pick a card—any card—just don't tell me what it is. You have chosen the ace of spades." This card is remarkable because it holds the most powerful magic of all. It represents the farmer's spade used to tend the bountiful and nutritious crops grown in Indiana.

Indiana farmers create a powerful potion for keeping our bodies healthy:

M—Maintaining a healthy diet from the basic food groups including Indiana beef, pork, poultry, vegetables, fruits, grains, and dairy will increase the body's level of energy and make it easier to live an active lifestyle.

A—Agriculture from Indiana such as corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, snap beans, potatoes, apples, watermelons, cantaloupes, peaches, and blueberries as well as soybeans, wheat, and oats will help the body resist infection and disease.

G—Good eating habits will improve "brain power," creating a better aptitude for learning.

I—An increase in life expectancy can result from decreasing cholesterol with Indiana whole grains and soy protein.

C—Caring for bones and teeth with dairy products from Indiana farms will help prevent osteoporosis and promote a healthy digestive system.

Combine all ingredients and simmer for a lifetime.

Eat properly and unlock the MAGIC. Maintain a healthy diet, consume nutritious Indiana agricultural products, practice good eating habits, increase life expectancy with Indiana whole grains, and care for bones and teeth with Indiana dairy products. Conjure up a little magic in yourself and—ABRACADABRA—live a healthy life with nutrition grown right here in Indiana.

#### GROWING NUTRITION RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

(By Ryan Nigh (Shelby County))

My grandmother has a saying, "You are what you eat!" It is very important to eat healthy foods to have a healthy body and mind. Eating right gives the body more nutrients. It makes the body function better and gives it more energy and coordination. There is less chance for illness and life-threatening diseases, especially heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and osteoporosis. The brain functions better too. Better nutrition, especially breakfast, gives a person better brainpower, concentration, and reasoning.

There are a variety of nutritional products produced in our state: milk products, bread and pasta, fruits and vegetables, and meat. Indiana is fifth in the U.S. in corn production. Much of it is used to feed livestock, which people then eat. Corn is also used for

cornmeal, taco shells, chips, and cereal. Indiana is second in popcorn, a favorite snack of many Americans. Bread and pasta come from wheat, milk products from dairy farms, lots of protein from beef cattle, hogs, and poultry grown here in Indiana. Poultry includes ducks (first), chickens (sixth), and turkeys (seventh). Indiana even has some fish farms.

A major product Hoosier farmers grow is soybeans. Besides supplementing animal feeds, soybeans are used in so many foods now that it's hard to find one without soybeans in it. Soybeans are very healthy.

Indiana is not usually known for fruits and vegetables. However, Indiana ranks in the top ten in growing tomatoes, green beans, and cucumbers for processing. And Indiana sweet corn is great too. Hoosiers also raise lots of cantaloupes, watermelons, apples, blueberries, peaches, and walnuts.

All of these good foods are grown in Indiana. If we eat the foods recommended on the food pyramid, we will grow and have healthy bodies. Like Grandma says, "You are what you eat!"

I ask that the names of the Hoosier Essay Contest winners be printed in the RECORD.

The names follow.

#### 2002-03 LUGAR ESSAY DISTRICT WINNERS

District 1: Joshua Surfus (Starke Co.), and Kaylyn Herrold (Fulton Co.).

District 2: Luke Pratt (Allen Co.), and Jillian Jackson (DeKalb Co.).

District 3: Taylor Farrer (Cass Co.), and Angela Hubers (Jasper Co.).

District 4: James Comerford (Miami Co.), and Caitlin Dunn (Jay Co.).

District 5: Justin Yoho (Vermillion Co.), and Jessica Fry (Putnam Co.).

District 6: Matt Howard (Marion Co.), and Samantha Morton (Hamilton Co.).

District 7: Christopher Duncan (Vigo Co.), and Kayla Cash (Vigo Co.).

District 8: Ryan Nigh (Shelby Co.), and Roma Bose (Johnson Co.).

District 9: Logan Verkamp (Dubois Co.), and Anna Blankenberger (Posey Co.).

District 10: Landon Roberts (Washington Co.), and Jessica Ragains (Washington Co.).

#### 2002-03 COUNTY ESSAY WINNERS

Benton: Wesley Geib, Tri-County Jr. High School.

Cass: Taylor Farrer and Kristen Holcomb, Pioneer Jr. High School.

Clark: Miles Murphy and Kelly Ann Avery, Parkview Middle School.

DeKalb: Wade Buchs and Jillian Jackson, DeKalb Middle School.

Dubois: Logan Verkamp and Krystal Knust, Forest Park Jr. High School.

Fayette: Eric Knotts and Tarrah Emily McCreary, Connorsville Middle School.

Franklin: Bradley Bischoff and Chelle Bentz, St. Michael School.

Fulton: Kaylyn Herrold, Caston Jr. High School.

Greene: Bryant Meng and Patricia Dawn Shepard, Linton-Stockton Jr. High School.

Hamilton: Evan Beckner and Samantha Morton, Carmel Jr. High School.

Hendricks: Nick McNulty, Danville Community Middle School, Rynne Fenimore, St. Malachy Parish School.

Henry: Daniel Snyder and Sarah McCullough, Tri Jr. High School.

Jasper: Randy Lehman, Rensselaer Central Middle School, and Angela Hubers, Demotte Christian School.

Jay: Ben Wellman and Caitlin Dunn, East Jay Middle School.

LaGrange: Carolyn Miller, Westview Jr. High School.

Lake: Kristopher Wonzy and Danielle Ferree, Our Lady of Grace School.

LaPorte: Josh Troxel, Wanatah Public School, and Mary Ellen Przybylinski, Saint Stanislaus School.