

was able to overthrow a tyrannical regime that had reigned in Iraq for 45 years and utterly vanquish its military, with very few casualties. Support units like the 109th were the backbone of this effort.

The 109th Engineering Battalion participated in a mobilization with few precedents in South Dakota history. Nearly 2,000 Guard and Reserve troops were called to active duty in our State, by far the largest mobilization since World War II. At the time the fighting began, units from more than 20 communities had been called up, from Elk Point in the south to Lemmon in the north, from Watertown in the east to Spearfish in the west. Indeed, our State's mobilization rate ranked among the highest of all the States on a per capita basis.

In addition to the service of the 109th, I want to acknowledge the sacrifices and dedication of the families who stayed home. They are the unsung heroes of any mobilization. They motivate and inspire those who are far from home, and they, too, deserve our gratitude.

Today, I join these families and the State of South Dakota in celebrating the courage, dedication, and success of the members of the 109th Engineering Battalion, and I honor their participation in this historic event in our Nation's history. Welcome home. Thanks to all of you for your hard work, your sacrifice, and your noble commitment to this country and its ideals.

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#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement 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 in Los Angeles, CA. On September 12, 2001, two Spanish-speaking women were harassed and beaten by another patient in a doctor's office. Believing the women to be of Middle Eastern descent, the attacker verbally and physically assaulted the women in retaliation for the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the United States. As the attacker struck the women, she yelled "You foreigners caused all this trouble."

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.

#### IN SUPPORT OF U.S.-CHILE AND U.S.-SINGAPORE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise today to support the U.S.-Chile and U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreements, which are now before the Senate. These agreements are the first to be considered under the expedited Trade Promotion Authority, TPA, procedure that Congress passed last year. Ratification of these agreements will provide significant benefits to agricultural producers and the U.S. economy. Strong bipartisan votes will send an important message that the U.S. Congress is strongly committed to growing the U.S. economy and helping American farmers and workers succeed in an ever-growing competitive global marketplace.

Both the U.S.-Singapore and U.S.-Chile free trade agreements will level the playing field for U.S. products and farm goods. Specifically, both agreements will eliminate the use of subsidies on agricultural exports, a major step forward for U.S. agriculture in WTO negotiations. There is a clear link between a healthy agricultural sector and trade. More than 43,000 Nebraskans hold jobs related to agriculture exports. Nebraska ranks fourth nationally in exports of agricultural products—an estimated \$3.14 billion in 2002. In 2002, Nebraska farmers and ranchers saw increased international sales of corn, soybeans, and wheat, and depend on the ability to export their products to the rest of the world for continued growth.

The U.S.-Singapore free trade agreement will strengthen an important relationship and serve as our first free trade agreement with an Asian nation. Singapore is a critical ally in Southeast Asia in the global war on terrorism. Singapore is also an important economic ally. It is our 12th largest trading partner. This free trade agreement will provide expanded opportunities for trade and investment and will increase job opportunities here at home. It will benefit American firms in many sectors, including those in the banking/financial industry and in professional services. Under the agreement, 100 percent of U.S. goods and 92 percent of Singaporean goods will have duty-free status immediately. The free trade agreement further ensures that Singapore cannot increase its duties on any U.S. product.

The U.S.-Chile Free Trade agreement will be the first between the U.S. and a South American nation. Under this agreement, American farmers, workers, and businesses will benefit from improved and expanded access to the Chilean market. More than 75 percent of U.S. farm goods will enter Chile tariff-free within 4 years, with all tariffs being phased out within 12 years. This agreement will eliminate tariffs on corn and most distilled spirits in 2 years. It will immediately eliminate tariffs on pork and pork products, soybeans, and many other agricultural

products. Access for beef on both sides will be completely liberalized over 4 years. Overall, this agreement will immediately remove tariffs on more than 85 percent of U.S. exports. The U.S.-Chile agreement will provide momentum to the ongoing negotiations in the Free Trade of the Americas and global trade talks. Bilateral agreements, such as this agreement with Chile, are essential because they provide benefits immediately and help the U.S. keep pace with the 16 global competitors, including the EU and Canada, who already have preferential trade agreements with Chile.

Free trade provides the basis for economic growth and democratic governance in developing countries. Free trade promotes American values around the world. It underpins a global economic order that is essential to our own economic security. Agreements like those before us today will help the U.S. to reap the benefits of free trade and gain access to emerging markets, creating new jobs and higher incomes for Americans. Ninety-six percent of the world's consumers are outside of U.S. borders. Foreign market access is essential for the continued growth and viability of the U.S. economy. International trade is an essential component of growth and opportunity in our global economy. The U.S. must be a leader, not a follower, in the global marketplace.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Chile and Singapore Free Trade Agreements.

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#### THE BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS TAX INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I recently joined Senator HAGEL of Nebraska in introducing legislation that is important to the survival of farm families and rural America. Our bipartisan legislation, called the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Tax Incentive Act, provides significant capital gains tax breaks to encourage retiring farmers and ranchers to sell their farm property to others who will continue to use the property in the farming business. Identical legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives.

As many of our colleagues know, the economic well-being of many rural communities across the country is at a crossroad. Over the past several decades, jobs on family farms and in Main Street businesses in small towns have been disappearing from the Nation's Heartland. Rural communities are facing an out-migration crisis of epic proportions. Senator HAGEL and I have been working at the Federal level to adopt fiscal policies that will give rural America the tools and funding it needs to reverse the out-migration problem. One of the challenges for stabilizing and revitalizing our rural communities is to ensure that the Federal Government backs strong farm policies