

business and diplomatic leaders on both sides of the Pacific.

Joji Konoshima will be missed by all whose lives he touched, but his extraordinary efforts in support of U.S.-Asia relations shall never be forgotten.

ON THE COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAM

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I want to speak today on the Community Oriented Policing Services, or COPS, program. In my twenty years as a public servant, I have seen only a very small number of federally funded programs that have had such a measurable and immediate effect on local communities as the COPS program.

The Community Oriented Policing Services Program, commonly known as COPS, was established in 1994, due in large part to the efforts of my distinguished colleague from Delaware, Senator BIDEN, and the support of then-President Clinton. Since its inception, the program has greatly enhanced community oriented policing across the Nation, resulting in real, tangible crime reduction in cities such as Green Bay, Wisconsin's third-largest city, as well as in small, rural areas across Wisconsin and the country. This program has been a shining example of an effective partnership between local and Federal governments. It provides Federal assistance to meet local objectives without imposing mandates or interfering with local prerogatives. It also provides Federal dollars directly to police departments and local communities.

To date, the COPS program has facilitated the hiring and training of over 118,000 police officers who help keep our communities safe. In the State of Wisconsin alone, COPS has funded over 1,330 new officers by contributing over \$100 million to communities. COPS funds have also provided over \$20 million worth of crime-fighting technologies to Wisconsin law enforcement agencies. As Green Bay Police Chief Craig Van Schyndle told me last week, these funds have had a very positive and measurable impact on policing in Green Bay. Crime rates have gone down, school security has been enhanced, and more officers have gotten out from behind their desks and into the communities they protect.

But the Chief also expressed his fear that proposed cuts to the COPS program will result in devastating consequences for the Green Bay Police Department. The proposed drastic funding cuts will set many police departments back decades. Already outdated equipment will become the norm, and what's worse, our communities will see a reduction in officers patrolling our neighborhoods. The Green Bay Police Department and so many other local law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin and across the country are already crunched for resources due to the stressed state budgets in many of our home States. Due to these fiscal con-

straints, COPS funds that we have praised as beneficial have become absolutely crucial. If we allow the proposed cuts to the COPS program, many departments will have no choice but to cut wages and reduce personnel.

It is important to note in the post-September 11 world that when we lose our community-oriented officers, we lose first responders. This year, for the first time, COPS dollars are being used to hire community policing officers who will be engaged in homeland security efforts, and to pay for overtime costs associated with homeland security. They are also helping to provide inter-operable communications technology in communities to better help our first responders communicate during times of crisis. Many of us have heard from first responders in our home States about how important, and how lacking, this communications technology is on the front lines of the fight against terrorism.

The administration and Congress simply cannot tell the American people that we want them to feel secure and tell our local law enforcement officers how they are, while at the same time cutting funding for those officers. We must not short-change our police officers. As the tragic events of September 11th reminded our Nation, police officers play a vital role in protecting and securing our communities. In the past 2 years, the words "security" and "safety" have taken on new significance for Americans. The COPS program helps to give those words meaning. The officers who are hired and trained and funded by the COPS program are our neighbors, our first responders, our drug educators, and, in some cases, as in the COPS in Schools program, the mentors for our children. We must give them the support they need so that they can continue to keep us safe and secure.

No police department should have to choose between having up-to-date communications devices and having sufficient law enforcement officers in its community, or decide whether to continue its school crossing guard program or to fund its successful crime-reduction programs. And yet, that is exactly what is happening to local law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin and across the country as they watch funding levels for the COPS program drop.

I might add that unlike other important law enforcement grant programs, COPS delivers grant funding directly to chiefs and sheriffs. There are no overhead costs for States because the grant administration is facilitated directly by the Federal Government. Communities of all sizes are eligible to apply for COPS grants, and the payoffs are invaluable. Ensuring funding in the COPS program is an investment in our Nation's security, an investment in our children, and an investment in community safety.

As we consider appropriations for the many Federal programs that make a difference at home, I urge my col-

leagues to send a strong message of support to our local law enforcement officers: As we ask more of them, we must understand the fiscal pressure they face and help them bridge their funding gap so they can continue the level of excellence at which they operate. There is no question that community-oriented policing is integral to the protection and safety of all Americans.

Again, I want to applaud Senator BIDEN for his leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues, especially those on the Appropriations Committee, to work to ensure that the COPS program is fully funded before we adjourn. Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO DORIS HANSEN

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I would like to voice my support for a woman who was recently named the American Trucking Association's National Driver of the Year, and resides in Lavina, MT.

Since Doris Hansen started driving semi trucks in 1967, she has logged more than 3 million miles. Beginning at the age of 19 as a driver for her father-in-law, Doris has preserved an accident-free driving record, with a personal commitment to safety for over 35 years. While Doris and her husband John sometimes drove as a sleeper team, she has logged most of her hours as a solo driver at a time when women were rare in the business. When Doris began her career, some companies did not offer separate shower facilities and break rooms, while others denied women access altogether.

Doris is currently leased to Quality Transportation, Inc. stationed in Baker, MT. Since signing with Quality in 1987, she has never lost a single cargo or filed a damage claim. She currently operates a conventional three-axle tractor and a 48-foot flatbed trailer, hauling general freight in "the lower 48." She has also logged the last 13 summers in-State pulling belly-dump trailers on road construction projects, winning numerous safety and industry awards, including Montana Motor Carriers 2002-03 Driver of the Year. Although her job keeps her on the road, she and John have raised two children. Danielle is now a nurse in Big Sandy, MT, and J.J., who shares Doris' love of the road, is a truck driver as well.

Doris has been named American Trucking Association's first woman, and first Montanan, National Driver of the Year for 2003. Doris will be honored at American Trucking Association's 2003 Safety and Loss Prevention Management Council's Fall Conference in Jacksonville, FL tomorrow, and again at the American Trucking Association Management Conference and Exhibition in San Antonio, TX on October 20. I applaud Doris for her continued