

From what I have learned, even if they had pursued the case and had found them guilty, the punishment is so minimal that it is not financially sensible to spend the money and resources to enforce these laws.

Most of the child labor laws have not been updated since the 1930's. As we all know the world we live in is very different 70+ years later. What few changes that have been made have been to weaken the laws. We as a society have had much to say about child labor in other countries, yet we do nothing about our own. SHAME ON US!!! We spend a lot of time looking at issues, making laws, but that is wasted time and energy if we aren't out there enforcing them. It is vital for our children's future to have adequate ways and means to penalize the offenders.

And then there are workman's compensation laws, which you would think would encourage employers to put child safety first. Again this is not true. For teens, the employers financial liability is minimal because the majority of them do not have dependents and their jobs are temporary and part time. This again is not an incentive for employers to obey the laws. I am not saying all employers are not concerned about teens safety. Some are very responsible. Others aren't even aware of most of these laws, although it is their responsibility.

Our family has endured many trials and tribulations through the years. We have always been able to pick up the pieces and continue on with the help of loving, supportive family and friends. The death of our beloved son Adam has been almost too much to bear. How do we fill the huge gap in our hearts that used to be Adam? He was so full of life and had so much love to give. His friends describe him as always happy with a smile on his face. He would do anything to make people laugh. We miss that smile! We miss his energy! We miss his whole being!

What do we tell his special needs sister Robin when she asks almost every day, why can't we bring him back? There are really no words that can express fully to anyone what losing a child does to your soul. I hope that none of you will ever know how this feels. We go on each day. We go to work. We maintain our home, because we must, for the rest of our family. But nothing will ever be the same.

What I am here today to say is that this should never have happened and that there are many ways that we can address these issues. The availability and easy access to educational materials for parents, young workers and especially employers must be improved.

The proposed legislation that Congressman Lantos is submitting today will address some of these issues. One of these being civil penalties in an amount that would have a significant impact on employers. If there is anything that we can do in memory of our son it would be to somehow prevent this from happening to another child, another family.

Thank you and God bless and guide you in all the decisions you make.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Virginia law enforcement officers, and those throughout the nation, who have lost their lives this year in service to

their communities. Every day, these men and women display their courage, commitment and service to their fellow man. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial recently held a wreath laying ceremony here in Washington, DC to honor these eight brave officers who gave their lives to protect us, the citizens of Virginia, and I would like to take a moment to recognize, remember and honor these individuals.

On January 12, Henrico County Police Officer Andre Booker was attempting to use his patrol vehicle to stop a person suspected of firing gunshots in a shopping center when his car crashed through a fence and landed in an icy pond. Six other officers at the scene were unsuccessful in freeing Officer Booker from his vehicle. He was 26 years old.

On January 16, 39-year-old Norfolk Police Officer Sheila Herring was killed after responding to reports of gunfire inside a bar. The suspects opened fire on the responding officers, fatally wounding Officer Herring. She worked with Norfolk Police Department for 11 months and had recently moved from Detroit, Michigan, where she spent 10 years as a law enforcement officer.

On January 29, Virginia State Trooper Michael Todd Blanton was killed by a drunk driver he had pulled over on Interstate 64. As Trooper Blanton attempted to reach into the car, the driver sped off, dragging Trooper Blanton until the car crashed, pinning him under the vehicle. Trooper Blanton is survived by his wife and 6-year-old son.

On May 9, 20-year law enforcement veteran Scott Allen Hylton of the Christiansburg Police Department was shot and killed after responding to a report of a hold up at a convenience store. Officer Hylton was shot and killed as he exited his cruiser at the scene. Also a member of the Army National Guard, Officer Hylton was the father of four.

On May 28, Officer Ryan Cappellety of the Chesterfield County Police Department, a recent graduate from the police academy, was shot and killed when he and other officers responded to reports of gunshots. Upon arrival, a suspect standing on his front lawn with a gun opened fire on the officers, fatally wounding Officer Cappellety. He was 23 years old.

On June 23, Officer Rodney Poceschi of the Virginia Beach Police Department was shot and killed during a traffic stop on Dam Neck Road in Virginia Beach. Officer Poceschi served the Virginia Beach Police Department for 4 years and is survived by his wife and young son.

On July 30, Richmond Police Officer Douglas E. Wendel was shot and killed by a suspected drug dealer. Officer Wendel had been with the Richmond Police Department for 5 years. He was a 41-year-old father of three.

On August 26, Sergeant Rodney Davis of the Greene County Sheriff's Department was shot and killed while serving an arrest warrant on a narcotics suspect near Standardville, VA. As Sergeant Davis and other officers searched the house, the suspect opened fire and fatally wounded Sergeant Davis. Davis worked with the Greene County Sheriff's Office for 2½ years but had been in law enforcement since he was 19 years old. The 30-year-old left behind an expectant wife and two young children.

Mr. Speaker, the eight officers killed in the line of duty this year matches the highest total of law enforcement officer fatalities in the

Commonwealth's history. Nationwide, there have been 114 law enforcement officers killed this year, a grim reminder of the vital and dangerous role these officers play in our national well-being. We are all eternally grateful for the service and sacrifice of these true American heroes.

TRIBUTE TO THE ALAMOSA
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to the Alamosa County, Colorado, Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber recently celebrated eighty years of service to Alamosa, and it is my honor to call the attention of my colleagues and this nation to all that the Chamber does for the citizens of Alamosa.

The Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce was incorporated in 1923. The original building was lost to fire in 1907. Recognizing the importance of the Chamber, the city rallied together and built a new building the following year.

The Chamber has a strong tradition of excellent leadership and a dedicated staff. Since its inception, the Chamber has focused on the organization and health of the County's economy. Able and dedicated staff members always greet each citizen with a smile.

In addition to traditional activities, the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce has always gone beyond the call of duty to be involved in the community. The citizens of Alamosa have traditionally used the Chamber as a meeting place for community events. There are often cribbage tournaments, banquets and charity events throughout the year. In addition, the Chamber funds scholarships for young people, has worked to improve the County's emergency response system, and is also involved in various projects such as the promotion of recycling.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise and pay tribute to the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber works tirelessly for the betterment of Alamosa County and I am honored to pay tribute to its contributions. I am pleased to join the people of Alamosa County in thanking the Chamber of Commerce for its hard work and many contributions.

HONORING LARRY CARTER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Larry Carter for his induction into the 2003 Stanislaus County Ag Center Foundation Ag Hall of Fame. On December 4th, he will be honored at the 2003 Ag Hall of Fame Dinner at the Stanislaus County Ag Center in California.

The Stanislaus Ag Center Foundation honors individuals who work to make agriculture Stanislaus County's number-one industry. Mr.