

opportunity to use his training in the service of his country. After having been in Iraq for less than a month and in a combat zone for less than 24 hours, Sgt. Labadie was fatally wounded when his camp came under a mortar and small arms attack.

Our condolences and prayers go out to William's wife, Sunnie, of Del City, OK; to his son, Bryan; and to his parents, Cheryl and Carl Winters of Bauxite, AR.

William's mother, Cheryl, was quoted in our State's newspaper, the Benton Courier, as saying that "[t]his honestly was his goal in life. He knew that this was his last shot at 45 years old. He told his commanding officer: 'Give me a shot.' It was like he was going to Disneyland." That kind of enthusiasm is what makes this nation great. We honor William's spirit and his strong resolve to take on the responsibility of advancing freedom to the world.

BRANDON CLINTON SMITH

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I also rise today to pay tribute to a son of Arkansas who gave up the security of his family and home to protect our freedoms in the war on terrorism. Marine Private First Class Brandon Clinton Smith, 20, of Fayetteville was killed on March 17, 2004, in Al Qaim, Iraq, as he and three of his fellow Marines were racing to help comrades who had come under attack by insurgents.

Brandon attended Fayetteville High School and dreamed of becoming a Marine. He fulfilled his dream by enlisting this past September. He was so proud of his decision that he framed his Marine Corps acceptance letter and hung it in his bedroom. Upon completing boot camp, Brandon became a member of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

Brandon was buried with full military honors in Fayetteville on Friday, March 26. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his father, Gordon Smith; to his mother, Deborah Bolin of West Fork; and to his sister, Desirae.

An attendee at Brandon's funeral was quoted by the Associated Press as saying that "[Brandon] made a great Marine. We could see he had changed when he came back from training. He had found himself." As this mission in Iraq continues, I am humbled that this young Marine found himself in so great a purpose as defending his nation.

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.

On November 18, 2004, in Fargo, ND, Derek Puttbrese, 20, beat a friend in his apartment. Both the victim and

Puttbrese admit that the assault originated after the victim admitted he was gay. The victim told authorities that Puttbrese had stayed at his apartment as a guest and attacked him after the two drank some wine.

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.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the victims of the Armenian Genocide, one of the great tragedies of the 20th century. Last Saturday, April 24, 2004, marked the 89th anniversary of the beginning of that tragic period and I urge all Americans to take time to remember, reflect, and pledge never to forget what happened.

On April 24, 1915, under the guise of collecting supplies for its participation in World War I, the Ottoman Empire launched a brutal and unconscionable policy of mass murder. The New York Times reported that the Ottoman Empire had adopted a policy to annihilate the Armenians living within the empire. Throughout the following years, Armenians faced violent attacks, starvation, deportation, and murder. Sadly, the world took little notice.

Before the violence began in 1914, 2.5 million Armenians lived in the Ottoman Empire. As a result of the genocide, 1.5 million Armenians had died and another 500,000 had been driven from their homes and villages. We must remember and pay homage to those that died. We must remind the world of these deaths and renew our commitment to ensure that such tragedies never happen again.

I am proud to represent an Armenian community of half a million in my great State of California. They are a strong and resilient community, taking strength in the tragedies of the past and the promise of a better tomorrow. This community is leading the effort to preserve the memory of the Armenian Genocide not only for future generations of Armenian Americans, but, indeed, for all Americans and all citizens of the world.

I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering the first genocide of the 20th century. Through our commemoration of this tragedy, we make clear that we will not tolerate mass murder and ethnic cleansing ever again and we will never forget.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, people around the world are joining together to solemnly remember and honor the men, women and children who perished in the Armenian genocide. Eighty-nine years ago, 1½ million Armenians were systematically massacred at the hands of the Ottoman

Empire. Over 500,000 more were forced to flee their homeland of 3,000 years. Before genocide was defined and codified in international law, Armenians experienced its horror.

Yet it appears that the international community did not learn the lessons of Armenia's genocide. Throughout the 20th century, the international community failed to act as governments in Germany, Yugoslavia and Rwanda attempted to methodically eliminate people because of their religion or ethnicity. Minority groups were abandoned by the international community in each instance to be overwhelmed by violence and despair. In Armenia, as in Rwanda and the Holocaust, the perpetrating governments scapegoated their minority groups for the difficulties they faced as societies. They justified their campaigns of hatred with political and economic reasons in an attempt to rationalize their depravity.

This is why we must remember the Armenian genocide. To forget it is to enable more genocides and ethnic cleansing to occur. We must honor its victims by reaffirming our resolve to not let it happen again.

In the shadow of the Holocaust, in 1948, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. What Winston Churchill once called a "crime without a name", was now called "genocide" by the Convention and defined as "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group." The Convention required its parties to create domestic legislation to hold perpetrators of genocide accountable for their actions and to place these perpetrators before domestic courts or international tribunals.

The international community has a long way to go in punishing and especially, preventing genocide. But we have made the first steps. As we move forward, we must learn the lessons of Armenia's genocide. Can we recognize the rhetorical veils of murderous leaders, thrown up to disguise the agenda at hand? Have we, the international community, learned that we must not stand by, paralyzed, as horrors occur, but work collectively to prevent and stop genocides from occurring? We owe the victims of the Armenian genocide this commitment.

IN RECOGNITION OF 56 YEARS OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Israel on 56 years of independence. Last year, I visited Israel in my capacity as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Eastern Affairs of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This was my first visit to Israel, and I was tremendously impressed with how much has been accomplished by this tiny country over the last several decades. I also was reminded of how much Israel has suffered at the hands of suicide bombers, who have killed hundreds

of Israelis and greatly set back the cause of peace.

In the past, I have expressed disappointment that the United States has not worked harder to advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, as well concerns about specific actions by the Israeli government. However, these concerns should not be misinterpreted as a lack of support for Israel or a lack of recognition of the very real threats that she faces. I am strongly committed to the long-term security of Israel, and I will continue to work towards the vision of a safe and secure Israel at peace with her Arab neighbors.

Israelis can be proud of the vibrant democracy that they have created, and I know that many Rhode Islanders share my deep appreciation for the close friendship between our two nations. I once again offer my congratulations and best wishes to the Israeli people.

BURMESE WAR CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I wish to draw the attention of my colleagues in the Senate to a new report by a credible organization based on the Thailand-Burma border. In "Shattering Silences," the Karen Women's Organization has carefully investigated and recorded the Burmese military regime's use of rape as a weapon of war against ethnic minority women, revealing a shockingly brutal and callous practice.

The report documents that both young and old women are being raped, and usually very brutally. Forty percent of the rapes committed by the regime's soldiers were gang rapes, and over one-quarter of the women were killed after being raped.

This horrifying evidence, which echoes previous documentation conducted by our own State Department, suggests that Burma's regime is deliberately using rape as a weapon to terrorize and subjugate the Burmese people. Fifty percent of the rapes were committed by officers in the military regime.

Many of us hoped that after the exposure of the use of rape as a weapon in Bosnia, the practice would come to an end. Sadly, our hopes have not been fulfilled, and Burma is the new Bosnia. To be a woman in Burma's ethnic states is to live in constant fear of sexual violence and murder.

Ever since the United States imposed economic sanctions on Burma last year, the ruling regime has made repeated promises of a so-called transition to democracy. The rapes documented in this report show what many of us have known for a very long time; that promises by this regime are meaningless. Our State Department must take a lead in condemning these horrific acts and move to rally support for international sanctions on Burma. We cannot wait any longer, while more

women face the war crimes committed by Burma's dictators.

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I proudly note passage of S. Res. 310, a resolution to designate May 15, 2004, as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. I again cosponsored this resolution with Senator CAMPBELL, as we do every year. We are right to remember and commemorate the sacrifice and commitment of our law enforcement officers serving our communities, States and country. We annually honor the officers and their families who made the ultimate sacrifice for public safety.

I commend Senator CAMPBELL for his leadership in this issue. This marks the 8th year running that he and I have teamed up to submit the resolution to commemorate National Peace Officers Memorial Day. As a former deputy sheriff, Senator CAMPBELL has experienced first-hand the risks faced by law enforcement officers every day while they protect our communities.

I also want to thank each of our Nation's brave law enforcement officers for their unwavering commitment to the safety and protection of their fellow citizens. They are real-life heroes.

Currently, more than 850,000 men and women who guard our communities do so at great risk. Each year, 1 in 15 offices is assaulted, 1 in 46 officers is injured, and 1 in 5,255 officers is killed in the line of duty in the United States every other day. After the hijacked planes hit the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001, 72 peace officers died while trying to ensure that their fellow citizens in those buildings got to safety. That act of terrorism resulted in the highest number of peace officers ever killed in a single incident in the history of this country.

In 2003, 146 law enforcement officers died while serving in the line of duty, well below the decade-long average of 165 deaths annually, and a major drop from 2001 when a total of 237 officers were killed. A number of factors contributed to this reduction including better equipment and the increased use of bullet-resistant vests, improved training, and advanced emergency medical care. And, in total, more than 17,100 men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice—of that number 43 are police officers who have already been killed in 2004 while serving in the line of duty.

During the 108th Congress, we have improved the Justice Department's Public Safety Officers Benefits program by making law the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act (Public Law 108-182), which allows survivors of public safety officers who suffer fatal heart attacks or strokes while participating in non-routine stressful or strenuous physical activities to qualify for federal survivor benefits.

The Senate also passed the Campbell-Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership

Grant Act, S. 764, which will extend through FY 2007 the authorization of appropriations for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program that helps State, tribal and local jurisdictions purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers. The House has yet to act on this important measure. We want to be sure that every police officer who needs a bulletproof vest gets one.

Last month, the Senate added to the gun liability bill by a vote of 91-8 the Campbell-Leahy Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, S. 253. This measure would establish national measures of uniformity and consistency to permit trained and certified on-duty, off-duty or retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms in most situations so that they may respond immediately to crimes across State and other jurisdictional lines, as well as to protect themselves and their families from vindictive criminals.

This National Peace Officers Memorial Day, Vermonters will remember our brave State Police Trooper, Sergeant Michael Johnson, who was killed last Father's Day while trying to stop a suspect leading two other State troopers on a high-speed chase. Sergeant Johnson was not even on duty, but he went to help his fellow troopers that Sunday afternoon after hearing their trouble on his radio. He had just deployed a set of tire spikes across the interstate when the suspect swerved to avoid the spikes and struck him. Sergeant Johnson left behind his wife and three children. Words are insufficient for the brave sacrifice of the man who was so admired by his family, community and the Vermont State Police force. In memory of this bravery and service to his family, community, State and country, Sergeant Johnson will be one of the names added this year to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

National Peace Officers Memorial Day will provide the people of the United States with the opportunity to honor the extraordinary service and sacrifice given year after year by our police forces. More than 15,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington to join with the families of their fallen comrades. I thank the Senate for acting on this important resolution.

CHINESE COMPETITION

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, in 2001, World Trade Organization members accepted China into the organization only after negotiating the most complex accession agreement in WTO history. Under their accession agreement, China committed to adopting a market- and rules-based economy and special safeguards for the domestic industries of other WTO members that could be severely injured by surges of imports from China's non-market economy. China has yet to live up to their commitments. China's problems stem from a significant lack of intellectual