

Each and every day, law enforcement officers risk themselves to protect the rights and freedoms we enjoy as citizens of this great country. Their commitment and sacrifice make our streets and homes safer, our communities stronger, and keep our families secure.

On October 1, 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726, proclaiming May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week of each year during which May 15 occurs as National Police Week. The week is a time to honor Federal, State and municipal officers who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty. This law was amended by the 103rd Congress as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act in 1994 to order the United States flag on all government buildings displayed at half-staff on May 15.

Since the turn of the last century, more than 60 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty in New Mexico ten since 1996. I would like to bring special attention to two events in particular, while realizing that all are nonetheless significant. One occurred long ago, and the second just this past year.

The first took place the year prior to my election to this body. On the night of November 8, 1971, New Mexico State Police Officer Robert Rosenbloom was gunned down after he stopped a vehicle on Interstate 40 west of Albuquerque. Three murder suspects—Charles Hill, Ralph Lawrence Goodwin, and Michael Robert Finney—fled to Albuquerque. On November 27, they forced an Albuquerque tow truck operator at gunpoint to drive them to the runway of Albuquerque International Airport. Once there, the hijackers seized control of a commercial jet and forced the pilot to fly to Havana, Cuba.

Under the protection of Fidel Castro, they have avoided American justice. It has been reported that one suspect died in Cuba; however, there are still outstanding warrants for all three suspects. These men have been given asylum in Cuba and we continue to seek the extradition of these men for trial. Today, I renew my call for Cuba and Fidel Castro to return these fugitives. This shall also serve notice that those of us from New Mexico have not forgotten, and we will forever hold out desire for due justice.

I would also like to remember Patrick K. Hardesty. Patrick grew up in Artesia, NM, where he established himself as a talented musician and Eagle Scout. In fact, he was one of my military academy nominees years ago. While making a career in the U.S. Marine Corps and Reserve, Patrick earned a college degree and joined the Tucson, AZ police force after retiring from the military. On May 26, 2003, about this time last year, he was brutally shot and killed while investigating a minor hit-and-run in midtown Tucson.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the unselfish dedication of Robert Rosenbloom and Patrick Hardesty, and

all the brave men and women who have devoted their lives to public protection and service.

We remember their dedication to protect and serve, and the tragic price they paid for that devotion. We also remember the families of these two officers and the sacrifices they have incurred because of a deep-seated commitment to duty and public service. All of us from New Mexico owe a debt of gratitude to each and every officer who has lost their lives in the line of duty.

We would do well to remember to express our gratitude to the officers who continue to serve us day to day. The men and women of law enforcement, through their service, are most worthy of our thanks and highest respect. To all who have paid the ultimate price and to those who continue to serve, may we forever be grateful and never take for granted what you do. You have my utmost admiration.

IN COMMEMORATION OF POLICE WEEK

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the 145 law enforcement officers who gave their lives in service to their communities last year. They are true heroes, and their families are owed our gratitude.

This is National Police Week. Tonight, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund will host the 16th Annual Candlelight Vigil on the grounds of the National Law Enforcement Memorial here in Washington. Three hundred and sixty-two names will be added to the memorial tonight—145 officers who were killed in 2003, and 217 who were lost in prior years. Saturday, the Fraternal Order of Police will host the National Peace Officers' Memorial Day Service on the West Front of the Capitol. Together, these two events, along with other events throughout the city this week, should make us all pause and give thanks to police officers throughout the Nation who protect our communities against crime and terrorism.

We lost fewer officers in the line of duty last year than we have in years past, and the total is well below the 230 officers killed in 2001, when we lost 72 officers on September 11 alone. But the numbers of lost officers is still far too high. On average, one out of every 9 officers is assaulted per year, one out of every 25 is injured, and one out of every 4,400 is killed in the line of duty annually. Police risk their own lives in our service each and every day, and we should keep these sobering statistics in mind every week, not just during police week.

Law enforcement is an inherently dangerous undertaking, and police officers have become our front lines in the war on terror. I fear we are underfunding their efforts as we reorient Federal assistance to local law enforcement post 9/11, but that is a conversation for another day. Today, and this entire week, we give police officers our

thanks, we remember those that paid the ultimate price while serving our communities, and we give comfort to the loved ones they have left behind.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise to recognize nine extraordinary individuals from my home State of Wisconsin. Each of them dedicated, and ultimately sacrificed, their lives to protect their fellow citizens.

On Thursday, May 13, 2004, a candlelight vigil will be held at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial to add 362 more names to the memorial. Each day, law enforcement officers risk life and limb to serve the public. On average, 167 officers are killed each year in the line of duty. This memorial is a lasting tribute to these courageous individuals.

Nine of the names being added today belong to law enforcement officers who served throughout the State of Wisconsin. For the sacrifices they have made on our behalf, the citizens of Wisconsin owe these brave individuals and their families a debt that can never be repaid. I would like to honor them by placing their names in the RECORD, along with the date of their untimely passing.

They are: Harry O. Harris of St. Croix County—6/18/1904; Richard Meyer of Winnebago County—11/13/2003; Roland Silas Payne of Wisconsin Rapids—11/10/1939; Roy Sampson of La Crosse County—9/24/1952; Matt Schumacher of the Wisconsin Department of the Treasury—9/22/1934; Michael Eron Shannon of Adams County—3/7/2003; Charles Snover of Waukesha County—7/28/1935; Curtis Owen Starr of Viroqua—3/13/1953; and Bruce Allen Williams of Green Lake County—10/19/2003.

Every day, public safety officers around the country put themselves in harm's way to make our communities safer. It is important that we honor their dedication and commitment to making our country and our communities a better place in which to live. That is particularly true of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty, but it is also true of those who take that risk day after day. For their commitment and dedication to their profession, we are forever in their debt.

TO AUTHORIZE SEPARATE MEDALS FOR THE IRAQ AND AFGHAN MILITARY CAMPAIGNS

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the legislation we are seeking an agreement to consider that would honor the service of our men and women in uniform who are defending our freedom honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan. This legislation would award separate campaign medals to members of the Armed Forces who participate in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The bill passed the House of Representatives unanimously in March and was reported by the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier this week.