

stars had five points or six or whether they were arranged in rows or a circle, was open to different interpretations. Also in our Nation's early years, a new star and a new stripe were added as each new State was added to the Union. The flag that flew over Fort McHenry in 1814 had fifteen stars and fifteen stripes. On April 4, 1818, President James Monroe signed into law the Flag Act of 1818. That act stipulated that, as of July 4, 1819, the flag would consist of thirteen stripes, for the thirteen original colonies, and twenty stars, one for each State at the time. Further, upon admission to the Union, a new star would represent each new State. Thus was born the flag that we know today, the flag that flies over this Capitol building.

Through war and peace, triumph and tragedy, our flag, like our Nation, has endured much over the last two centuries. Hoisted over the victory stand at the Olympics, as it surely will be this summer in Greece, draped over the gaping wound in the side of the Pentagon before it was reconstructed, or printed on sacks of relief supplies sent to crisis situations across the globe, our Nation's flag conveys our pride, our courage, our defiance, and our magnanimity in the face of great challenges. The flag is a part of so many other holidays and celebrations. At the Fourth of July, on Memorial Day, on Veterans Day, and now on the 11th of September, the flag will be flying. And always, the sight of the red, white, and blue pulls us to our feet and stirs our emotions. So it is more than fitting that on one day each year, we honor the flag itself.

I would like to close with one of my favorite poems, by Henry Holcomb, entitled "Hats Off." It is a fitting tribute to our flag.

#### FLAG DAY

Hats off!  
 Along the street there comes  
 A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,  
 A flash of color beneath the sky:  
 Hats off!  
 The flag is passing by!  
 Blue and crimson and white it shines,  
 Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.  
 Hats off!  
 The colors before us fly;  
 But more than the flag is passing by.  
 Sea-fights and land fights, grim and great,  
 Fought to make and save the State:  
 Weary marches and sinking ships;  
 Cheers of victory on dying lips;  
 Days of plenty and years of peace;  
 March of a strong land's swift increase;  
 Equal justice, right and law,  
 Stately honor and reverend awe;  
 Sign of a nation, great and strong  
 Toward her people from foreign wrong;  
 Pride and glory and honor, all  
 Live in the colors to stand or fall.  
 Hats off!  
 Along the street there comes  
 A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums;  
 And loyal hearts are beating high:  
 Hats off!  
 The flag is passing by!

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ANNETTE ORTIZ, U.S. AIR FORCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding Air Force Officer, MAJ Annette Ortiz, for the tremendous work she has done as a member of my staff during the 108th Congress. It is my privilege to recognize her career accomplishments and to commend her for the superb service she has provided the Air Force, the great State of Mississippi, and our Nation.

Major Ortiz earned her commission through ROTC at the University of Hawaii where she graduated in 1990 with a bachelor of arts degree in telecommunications with a minor in German. She completed specialized undergraduate navigator training at Mather Air Force Base in November 1991, and KC-135 Combat Crew Training School at Castle Air Force Base in August 1992. In July 1994, Major Ortiz retrained into the C-130E at Little Rock Air Force Base, where she demonstrated academic excellence.

Following flight school, Major Ortiz reported to the 906th Air Refueling Squadron, 43rd Air Refueling Wing, at Minot Air Force base. While assigned to the 906th, she deployed on inter-command refuelings in the Pacific, European, and Southwest Asian theaters. In support of Operation Restore Hope, the humanitarian re-supply operation in Somalia, she was the lone recipient of the coveted "outstanding performance" evaluation rating during the 15th Air Force Standardization and Evaluation Inspection. She also flew several combat missions into Tuzla and Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, including participation in Operations Provide Promise, Joint Endeavor, Deny Flight, Joint Guard, and other NATO supported European operations.

Major Ortiz subsequently served as an Instructor Navigator, C-130E, for the 37th Airlift Squadron, 86th Airlift Wing, at Ramstein Air Force base. During this assignment, she instructed combat employment of the C-130 Adverse Weather Aerial Delivery System, AWADS, and Aircraft Defensive System, ADS. She also led tactical formations of multiple aircraft during joint airborne transportability training and special assignment regarding airdrop missions. Following that assignment, Major Ortiz served as a C-130 FTU instructor navigator and assistant flight Commander at the 53rd Airlift Squadron, Little Rock Air Force base. In this capacity, she provided training to students from the US Armed Forces and 27 allied nations regarding combat mission planning, tactical formation, and airdrop/airland procedures.

Major Ortiz's next assignment was air operations staff officer, Special Operations Command Pacific, Camp Smith, HI. During this tour, she was first attached to the Air Mobility Warfare Center Tactics Division where she assisted with the instruction of the Combat Aircrew Tactics Training course. She also updated and developed

course curriculum, including the Blue Command and Control course that focused on development of tactics. Subsequently, Major Ortiz was attached to the headquarters Air Force, Directorate for Future Strategic Plan. In this capacity, she participated in the Quadrennial Defense Review and developed strategic personnel initiatives. Major Ortiz was instrumental in the formulation of doctrine and policy that pertained to the total force of Active, Reserve, and civilian Air Force personnel.

In October 2002, Major Ortiz was selected to serve as a legislative fellow and special assistant on my staff. During this 1-year assignment, she was responsible for a wide spectrum of issues that directly affected the security and national defense of the United States. She was also instrumental in carrying out a wide range of special projects, and was particularly effective at coordinating and resolving a broad range of complex military issues for constituents. Major Ortiz also provided expert advice regarding foreign policy matters, and provided effective liaison with senior staff of the Foreign Relations Committee and both Defense Committees. Upon completion of her fellowship, Major Ortiz resumed her status as a Reservist and became a permanent member of my staff, serving as the deputy national security advisor.

Throughout her most distinguished career, MAJ Annette Ortiz has served the Air Force and our Nation with pride and excellence. Her awards include two Air Force commendation medals, Air medal, three Aerial Achievement medals, two with Oak Leaf Cluster, the 15th Air Force outstanding performance flight evaluation, and numerous other campaign and unit distinctions.

Major Ortiz has been an integral member of my staff and has contributed greatly to the best-trained, best-equipped, and best-prepared Air Force in the history of the world. Annette's superb leadership, integrity, and limitless energy have had a profound impact on my entire staff and will continue to positively impact the United States Air Force and our Nation. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I wish Annette, her husband Carlos, and their children Sofia Anna and Carlos Joseph Alejandro the best of luck in their bright future.

#### 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 July 23, 2003, Gregory Johnson, a 17-year-old gay man, and his female friend Brandie Coleman were shot in