

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONSTITUTION DAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on Saturday, the Nation will observe the 218th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

In previous years, September 17 has been designated "Citizenship Day"—a day on which all Americans were encouraged to pay special attention to the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

This year, for the first time, we celebrate September 17 as "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day." This special focus on the Constitution came about as a result of an initiative sponsored by our senior colleague from West Virginia. The Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal 2005 provides that each educational institution receiving Federal funds during a fiscal year will conduct a program of its own devising on the Constitution. Also, each Federal department and agency, in connection with this special day, will make available educational materials on the Constitution for its employees.

Today, we have placed on the desk of each Senator two documents. The first is an annotated copy of the Constitution. The second contains the record of the 1787 constitutional convention as pertains to the powers and responsibilities of the United States Senate. In the spirit of this first Constitution Day, I hope all my colleagues will take the time to examine both of these fundamental documents.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the work and achievements of Hispanic Americans. Every year since 1968 Americans have formally recognized the importance of Hispanic heritage and the contributions of Latino members of society. Hispanic Heritage Month allows the Nation's 41 million Latinos, along with all Americans, to celebrate Latino community and culture.

As the fastest growing population in America, Hispanics have the potential to significantly impact society through their hard work, commitment to faith and closely-knit families. Aida Gianchello is one of the Latina Americans who are changing the world. Aida founded the Midwest Latino Health Research, Training and Policy Center at the University of Chicago at Illinois. From this Center, Aida works within the Latino community and with the public health network to address health problems that disproportionately affect Latinos, including life-

threatening diabetes, asthma and hypertension.

This morning, I had the pleasure of meeting three women from Illinois about to graduate from the National Hispana Leadership Institute. Juanita Irizarry is the executive director of Latinos United, a housing policy and advocacy organization in the Chicago area. Eva Serrano is director of community and school partnerships at Aurora University. Elena Tijerina is a partner at Lucent Technologies. These are powerful women, already participating in civic, business and community affairs, moving forward in leadership. We are lucky to have them in Illinois.

I also must mention my friend Al Galvan. Al is a veteran of World War II and the founder of the first Hispanic organization for Hispanic American veterans. The Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce recently bestowed its life-time achievement award on Al Galvan.

Despite the remarkable accomplishments of many Hispanic leaders, Hispanic Americans still face daunting challenges, including the 14 million who do not have health coverage, as well as dangerously low levels of income. But they are rising to face these challenges—the rate of minority enrollment in post-secondary institutions continues to grow, as does the number of small businesses owned by Latinos. Leaders are recognizing the problems faced particularly by Latinos and are offering specific solutions. Aida Gianchello led the charge to serve struggling neighborhoods in Chicago by setting up three diabetes-focused self-care centers which each reach about a thousand residents a month, many undocumented and uninsured.

Individual efforts, like those of the Illinois leaders I have mentioned here today, make me proud to acknowledge the work and achievements of Latinos throughout Illinois and the country. It is only with the continued dedication and appropriate appreciation of Hispanic Heritage that the Latino culture will grow and thrive in America.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On July 1, 2005, a man was beaten outside his home in Destin, FL. According to police, the apparent motivation for the attack was that the man was gay.

I would note that yesterday in the House, hate crimes legislation was

passed in a bipartisan vote. I strongly believe that we must also move similar legislation in the Senate. In the months ahead I look forward to working with Senator KENNEDY as we continue our work in passing a hate crimes bill.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARTHUR RAY MCGILL

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I rise with a heavy heart to honor the life of SGT Arthur Ray McGill. It is the story of a carefree and loving young man from northwest Arkansas, who was devoted to his family and always put them above all else. It is also the story of a trustworthy and brave soldier, who honorably served his Nation in uniform, and ultimately gave his life in the name of freedom.

Sergeant McGill spent most of his childhood in the small Arkansas town of Decatur. Those who knew him best would describe him as a quiet and patient young man who was always considerate of others and treated them with respect. He attended Decatur High School and although he left after his 10th grade year, he went on to earn his general educational development diploma at the age of 17. Soon after, he joined the Arkansas National Guard, where he would serve for 6 years prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army in November of 2002.

In his free time, "Ray" or "Big Country," as he was known to friends and family, had a love for archery and could often be found playing video games or reading the comic books of his favorite superhero, Spiderman. But above all, his greatest love was his family, particularly his 7-year old daughter Kaylee. Her welfare was her father's greatest concern, and she knew that he could always be counted on to protect and care for her as best he could.

Sergeant McGill reported for duty in January of 2003 and was deployed for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was one of the soldiers in the initial waves of American troops into Baghdad, and served in the area until that August. Sergeant McGill returned to Iraq in January of 2005. In explaining his decision to reenlist for a second tour of duty to his loved ones, Sergeant McGill spoke of his feeling of being needed in Iraq, and that he was simply doing his part and was proud to do so. He would also speak of his future after the Army, when he hoped to study criminal justice, buy a home, and become a member of the U.S. Border Patrol in New Mexico.

Throughout his military service, Sergeant McGill's hard work and dependability quickly earned him the respect and loyalty of his fellow soldiers. They even began calling him "Tizzley," a combination of a teddy bear and a grizzly, which aptly described the 6'6" soldier who had a heart of gold. Though the comradeship with his fellow soldiers grew, Sergeant McGill was still a