

To paraphrase the Israeli diplomat and politician Abba Eban, Hamas literally cannot afford to miss this opportunity to renounce terrorism, recognize Israel, and embrace responsible governance. If they do that, they will find the missed opportunity very costly.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to 15 young Americans who have been killed in Iraq since December 9. This brings to 523 the number of soldiers who were either from California or based in California that have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. This represents 23 percent of all U.S. deaths in Iraq.

LCpl Samuel Tapia, age 20, died December 18 from small-arms fire while conducting combat operations in Ar Ramadi. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

SGT Regina C. Reali, age 25, died December 23 in Baghdad when an improvised explosive device detonated near her humvee. She was assigned to the Army Reserve's 351st Civil Affairs Command, Mountain View, CA. She was from Fresno, CA.

SGT Cheyenne C. Willey, age 36, died December 23 in Baghdad when an improvised explosive device detonated near his humvee. He was assigned to the Army Reserve's 351st Civil Affairs Command, Mountain View, CA. He was from Fremont, CA.

SPC Sergio Gudino, age 22, died December 25 in Baghdad when an improvised explosive device detonated near his M1A1 tank during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA. He was from Pomona, CA.

SPC Marcelino R. Corniel, age 23, died December 31 in Baghdad when an enemy mortar attack occurred in the vicinity of his observation post. He was assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, Fullerton, CA. He was from La Puente, CA.

PVT Robbie M. Mariano, age 21, died January 5 in An Najaf when an improvised explosive device detonated near his humvee during convoy operations. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from Stockton, CA.

SGT Adam L. Cann, age 23, was killed in action on January 5 by a suicide bomb attack on an Iraqi police recruitment center in Ar Ramadi. He was assigned to Security Battalion, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

MAJ Douglas A. La Bouff, age 36, died January 7 near Tal Afar when his

UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, CO. He was from La Puente, CA.

LCpl Raul Mercado, age 21, died January 7 when his vehicle was attacked with an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations near Al Karmah. He was assigned to 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, Camp Lejeune, NC. He was from Monrovia, CA.

CPL Justin J. Watts, age 20, died January 14 from an apparent nonhostile gunshot wound in Haditha. His death is currently under investigation. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

CWO3 Rex C. Kenyon, age 34, died January 16 in Baghdad when his Apache helicopter was shot down while conducting aerial patrols. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment (Attack), Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from El Segundo, CA.

CPL Carlos Arrelanopandura, age 22, died January 20 from a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in Haqlaniyah. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division. He was from Los Angeles, CA.

LCpl. Brandon Dewey, age 20, died January 20 from a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in Haqlaniyah. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division. He was from San Joaquin, CA.

SGT David L. Herrera, age 26, died January 28 in Baghdad when an improvised explosive device detonated near his humvee during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY. He was from Oceanside, CA.

LCpl Hugo R. Lopezlopez, age 20, died January 27 at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio from wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Rawah, Iraq on November 20, 2005. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division. He was from La Habra, CA.

Mr. President, 523 soldiers who were either from California or based in California have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. I pray for these young Americans and their families.

#### HOUSE PASSAGE OF THE DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today the House of Representatives completed final action on the S. 1932, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, DRA. I am pleased that this important legislation will soon be enacted into law.

It has been 8 years since Congress last passed a reconciliation bill. In crafting S. 1932, we worked hard to ensure that none of the changes made would adversely affect beneficiary coverage. The Deficit Reduction Act will allow States across the country to continue to offer these essential services to their beneficiaries.

The Deficit Reduction Act also includes a number of provisions to ensure that the Federal Government pays Medicare providers accurately and appropriately. One such provision relates to payment policies under the Medicare Advantage program. Specifically, Section 5301 of S. 1932 phases-out the budget neutrality adjustment for Medicare Advantage plans. Section 5301 and the joint statement which accompanied the conference report in the Senate requiring adjustments for differences in coding patterns is intended to include adjustments for coding that is inaccurate or incomplete for the purpose of establishing risk scores that are consistent across both fee-for-service and Medicare Advantage settings, even if such coding is accurate or complete for other purposes. This will ensure that the goal of risk adjustment—to pay plans accurately—is met.

I am also pleased that the Deficit Reduction Act includes the Family Opportunity Act. I have been working tirelessly on this legislation since 1999 with Senator KENNEDY. The measure will allow States to create options for families who have children with multiple medical needs to buy into Medicaid while continuing to work. Families with children with such medical needs should not have to choose between providing for their children and their children's health care. This provision in the Deficit Reduction Act will help prevent just that.

I applaud the Congress for passing this important legislation today. Beneficiaries and taxpayers across the country deserve to get the highest value for every dollar that is spent on Medicare, Medicaid and other safety net programs. This legislation will help accomplish that objective.

#### 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