

President of France presented Mr. Buckles with the Legion of Honor at a ceremony honoring World War I veterans at the French embassy here in Washington, DC. And he has been the subject of feature stories in USA Today, the Charleston Daily Mail, and "America's Young Warriors," and a number of other newspapers and magazines.

Mr. President, on this Armed Forces Day, I salute this brave and patriotic American. And I again salute and thank all those men and women serving in our Armed Forces today for their commitment and their sacrifice.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, this Saturday, May 19, is Armed Forces Day. Celebrated annually on the third Saturday of May, this is a day for all of us as Americans to rally around our military members—wherever they are serving—and thank them for their patriotism and duty to country. This day has a long and proud history. With President Harry S. Truman leading the effort for this holiday, it came to fruition just a few years after the close of World War II. It was at the end of August 1949 that Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of Armed Forces Day to replace separate days of celebration for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. While the roots of this celebration may have resulted from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense, it serves much more than a consolidative purpose.

The account of the first Armed Forces Day is particularly riveting—as recorded in a page on the official web site of the Department of Defense: "The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated by parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows. In Washington DC, 10,000 troops of all branches of the military, cadets, and veterans marched pas[t] the President and his party. In Berlin, 1,000 U.S. troops paraded for the German citizens at Templehof Airfield. In New York City, an estimated 33,000 participants initiated Armed Forces Day "under an air cover of 250 military planes of all types." In the harbors across the country were the famed mothballed "battlewagons" of World War II, the *Missouri*, the *New Jersey*, the *North Carolina*, and the *Iowa*, all open for public inspection. Precision flying teams dominated the skies as tracking radar [was] exhibited on the ground. All across the country, the American people joined together to honor the Armed Forces."

It is that last sentence that stands out to me: "All across the country, the American people joined together to honor the Armed Forces." Let this Saturday be another one of those days. Wherever our brave military men and women are this Saturday—be it on the front lines in Iraq or Afghanistan, stationed along the DMZ that divides North and South Korea, on the open sea across the globe, or training in the great American skies above, let's honor them. Let us not forget their service

and dedication to protecting our freedoms and defending our way of life this Saturday and every Saturday, this day and every day.

To all our brave men and women in uniform and your families: thank you for your selfless service and sacrifice.

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WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN  
AND THE CONSTITUTION NA-  
TIONAL TEAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, from April 28 to 30, 2007, approximately 1,200 students from across the country participated in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, an educational program developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The We the People program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education through an act of Congress.

During the 3-day competition, students from all 50 States demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles. The students testified before a panel of judges in a congressional hearing simulation focusing on constitutional topics. I am pleased to announce that Damonte Ranch High School from Reno, NV, won their statewide competition and earned the opportunity to compete in the national finals.

The names of these outstanding students from Damonte Ranch High School are as follows: Fabien Dior-Siwajian, Ashley Fanning, Morgan Holmgren, Stephanie Kover, Tony Miller, Amy O'Brien, Stephany Pitts, Austin Wallis, and Eben Webber.

I would also like to commend the teacher of the class, Angela Orr, who donated her time and energy to prepare these students for the national finals competition. Also worthy of recognition is Marcia Stribling Ellis, the state coordinator, and Shane Piccinini, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in Nevada.

Please join me in congratulating these students on their outstanding achievement at the We the People national finals and wish them the best of luck in the years ahead.

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COPS IMPROVEMENTS ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this Congress has been making important efforts to show our support and commitment to our Nation's law enforcement officers. This week marks the 44th year that we have celebrated National Police Week. On May 1, the Senate passed a resolution sponsored by my colleague Senator SPECTER, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, and myself, marking May 15, 2007 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. Earlier this week, I was honored to participate in that ceremony here at the Capitol hosted by the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary. As we do each year, we gathered with

the families of those who lost loved ones in 2006 while serving in the line of duty. We commemorated their sacrifice to keep us safe and secure.

On Tuesday, the House passed H.R. 1700, the COPS Improvements Act of 2007, by an overwhelming vote of 381 to 34. The Senate Judiciary Committee has voted to report the Senate's companion bill which I joined with Senator BIDEN to introduce. Despite tremendous support for this legislation, a Republican objection to passing the House bill has prevented this important legislation from passing the Senate. I am disappointed that Senate action on these vital improvements to the COPS Program has stalled, and I hope the objection is withdrawn so that the Senate can pass H.R. 1700.

This legislation would reauthorize and expand the ability of the Attorney General to award grants aimed at increasing the number of cops on the streets and in our schools. To accomplish this goal, this bill would authorize \$600 million in designated funds to hire more officers to improve and expand community policing, which will in turn help reduce crime. In Vermont, for example, passage of the COPS Improvements Act would likely mean that 110 new officers would be put on the beat. Additionally, the COPS Improvements Act would authorize \$200 million annually for district attorneys to hire community prosecutors and \$350 million annually for technology grants.

The COPS Program has been a resounding success, and the improvements to the program that are contained in this bill would help our State and local law enforcement agencies cope with the substantial reductions in funding they have endured in recent years. Despite these reductions in funding, law enforcement officers have an increased role in homeland security responsibilities. H.R. 1700 includes "Terrorism Cops," officers who are focused specifically on homeland security, and would also include the Troops to Cops Program to help soldiers returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. In short, this legislation gives our law enforcement officers the tools they need to reduce crime and protect our citizens.

The Government Accountability Office has reported that between 1998 and 2000, COPS hiring grants were responsible for 200,000 to 225,000 less criminal acts—one-third of which were violent. With violent crime on the rise and our State and local law enforcement officers stretched thin with new responsibilities, it is essential that we pass this legislation. I urge those on the other side of the aisle to withdraw their objections and support our State and local law enforcement agencies by passing H.R. 1700.

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340B PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT  
AND INTEGRITY ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this Chamber has spent a good deal of time