

workforce planning so agencies could better meet their omissions. Agencies were given the discretion whether to designate the position as a political appointment or career civil servant. However, the act required the CHCO at DHS to be a political appointee nominated by the President. Where most agencies can select political or career positions without having to go through an external source, DHS has to go outside its walls to have the President select a person for this position.

Throughout the Federal Government, the mix of political and career CHCOs is almost equal. The important factor is that each agency has the discretion to choose whether the CHCO position best fits into the framework of the agency and its human capital strategy as a political or civilian employee. DHS by statute does not have this flexibility. As such, we believe that DHS should be treated like all other Federal agencies and have the discretion whether to make the position a political or career civil service job. Our bill would make the requirements for the CHCO position uniform for all agencies.

DHS has faced many management challenges and integration issues. The DHS CHCO office has been working diligently to address the human capital challenges within DHS and through the CHCO Council. The DHS CHCO has partnered with other agencies to discover best practices and tackle difficult issues of succession planning, administration transition planning, hiring strategies, and workforce flexibilities. CHCOs' work is critical to the support of effective government management and strategic workforce planning. Given DHS's critical mission and the fact that it continues to remain on the Government Accountability Office High-Risk List, it is important to give DHS the same flexibility as other Federal agencies in appointing its CHCO.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

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 strengthen and 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 the night of January 21, 2008, in Charleston, SC, Adolphus Simmons was shot to death on the steps of his apartment. According to reports, Simmons had been dressed as a woman when the attack occurred. Friends say that Simmons, an 18-year-old transgender person, often dressed in women's clothes. Sadly, the suspect charged with Simmons' murder is only 15 years old. Baf-

fled by this seemingly unprovoked attack, investigators are not ruling out that Simmons may have been targeted based on his sexual orientation.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. Federal laws intended to protect individuals from heinous and violent crimes motivated by hate are woefully inadequate. This legislation would better equip the Government to fulfill its most important obligation by protecting new groups of people as well as better protecting citizens already covered under deficient laws. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

COMMENDING THE PEACE CORPS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to commend the Peace Corps and its volunteers for 47 years of service to our country.

In 1960, John F. Kennedy challenged students to dedicate a portion of their lives to serving their country overseas in the cause of peace. A year later, as President, he established the Peace Corps. And now, after 47 years, the Peace Corps shines as a beacon of our commitment to the world.

Created to extend the volunteerism of the American people abroad, the Peace Corps has sent more than 190,000 citizens to nearly 140 countries as grassroots ambassadors of American goodwill. They have made lasting contributions in fields like agriculture, education, health care, and the environment.

Twenty-seven North Dakotans currently serve in the Peace Corps. I know many individuals who volunteered their service. What I have heard of their experiences is truly remarkable.

President Kennedy challenged us to ask what we can do for our country. The men and women of the Peace Corps rise to that challenge. Through their service, they demonstrate to the world that America and her people truly do care.

HONORING MARY LANGSTON TAYLOR

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, thank you for the opportunity today to pay tribute to a wonderful woman, dedicated public servant and loyal friend—Ms. Mary Langston Taylor. Mary is retiring from my staff on May 1, 2008, after 31 years of dedicated service.

Mary has been with me from the beginning. She joined my staff on January 1, 1977, the first week I was in office. You could say we have literally grown up in this job together. I believe the very first assignment I ever gave her was to take dictation for letters I wanted to send to all of my new colleagues. She didn't miss a word then and is still one of the fastest people I know at shorthand—a vanishing talent I might add.

In the early days of my Senate career, Mary was instrumental in the beginnings of all aspects of running a U.S. Senate Office. She drafted and implemented the initial quality control procedures for all office documents, and correspondence. She managed the "conversion" of the office from typewriters to computers—hard to fathom knowing what equipment we now have at our fingertips. She also helped spearhead the first Utah Women's Conference, an annual event Elaine and I have the pleasure of hosting for women across Utah. From its beginnings with Jihan Sadat as the first keynote speaker to today, this conference has served a vital purpose to bring together women from diverse backgrounds to discuss the issues most important to their health and well-being. Her innovation and hard work, along with many others, has made this annual event the huge success that it is.

Mary has worn many hats during her years of service: personal secretary, office manager, legislative assistant, special assistant, and currently constituent services representative. In fact, she was even kind enough to wheel me to the Capitol for votes after I severed my Achilles tendon. She got pretty fast with my wheelchair.

In her current position Mary helps solve hundreds of constituent cases each year that are brought to my attention by Utahns needing help working with the Federal Government. Mary's areas of expertise include: veterans and military affairs, transportation issues, and the U.S. Postal Service. While working with constituents, Mary has always conveyed her warmth and deep caring for each person. Perhaps her work is summed up best in the words of gratitude expressed to Mary by a happy constituent: "What would we have done without you? You are our hero. I want to thank you for never giving up. . . Thank you for making all the difference in the world to my mom and us."

Even in the face of severe adversity, she always came to work each day with a smile on her face and a willingness to get the job done. I have always admired Mary for her courage and fortitude. As a single mother for many years, she raised three wonderful boys—Robby, David, and James. She has taught them well and has sacrificed many things for the happiness of her children. Mary is not only the proud mother of these three boys but the loving stepmother to five children she was fortunate to inherit when she wed Brian Taylor. They have formed a wonderful partnership and it is always a pleasure to see them together.

In addition to her Senate service, Mary has been a tireless advocate for conservative ideals, and women's issues. She has served as the president of the Professional Republican Women of Utah, is a member of the Women's State Legislative Council, and is currently finishing her term as the president of the Salt Lake Council of

Women. In this position Mary spearheaded the Hall of Fame to honor outstanding women who have provided service to the community. She also created a special committee on domestic abuse to help others learn to spot indicators and educate women on what resources are available to those in need.

Mr. President, I am truly grateful for the service Mary Taylor has given to me, to our community, and to Utah. I will miss Mary tremendously but know that life holds many exciting and wonderful new opportunities for her to enjoy. When I think of the best way to describe Mary, the word "loyal" just seems to fit. Mary is a loyal friend, mother, wife, and has been a tremendously loyal staff member for 31 years. Someone once said: "Loyalty cannot be blueprinted. It cannot be produced on an assembly line. In fact, it cannot be manufactured at all, for its origin is the human heart." This is Mary—her heart is pure and she is loyal to all.

I want to wish Mary the very best in retirement and want her to know that I will pray for her continued good health, success and happiness. May God bless Mary and her family for her wonderful service.

CELEBRATING THE MANGINOS' DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the sixtieth wedding anniversary of Antonio and Rose Ann Mangino of Portland, ME on April 4, 2008.

Originally born in Lewiston, ME, Antonio, Tony, graduated from Portland High School in 1942. He was the son of Camillo and Antoinette Mangino, who owned a small grocery store in Portland. He had two brothers and three sisters. From 1943–1945, Tony served in the United States Army in the Third Armored Division, where he was one of the brave men who landed on the beaches of Normandy, 13 days after D-Day. Tony went on to fight the Nazi army in Normandy, France and in Germany. And he is one of the proud members of the "greatest generation" who can say they fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Having served his Nation courageously, placing his own life on the line, Tony returned home to Maine where he met Rose Ann Atripaldi, a 1947 graduate of Portland High School and the daughter of Vincent and Marie and one of five sisters and three brothers. In 1948 Tony proposed to Rose, and they got married at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Portland. Preferring not to return to the family grocery business, Tony worked for the United States Postal Service as a letter carrier, and he was actively involved in his union and worked at the Postal Service until he retired. At the same time, Tony enjoyed selling real estate, and worked as a part-time broker with Deering Realty in Portland, helping to sell property in areas of North Deering in Portland.

Although Rose Ann was a full-time mother, raising two daughters—Judy Fox of Portland, ME and Camilla McCannell of Gray, ME—she remained civically involved by volunteering for the Maine Democratic Party, one of the highlights of which was riding in a motorcade when President John F. Kennedy visited Portland, ME. In addition, Rose Ann volunteered at the St. Vincent De Paul soup kitchen and was known for her weekly trips to Brunswick, ME to make her famous meatball recipe for Vincenzo's, a restaurant owned by her brother Andy.

With a marriage that is an enduring inspiration to us all and a standing testament to their mutual devotion and love, Tony and Rose Mangino today are the proud grandparents of three grandchildren, Christopher McCannell of Washington, DC, Michael Fox of Denver, CO, and Jennifer Fox, also of Denver. They are also blessed with two great-grandchildren, Zack and Coby Fox, sons of Michael and his wife Eileen Fox. I couldn't be more pleased to join with the McCannell and Fox families in wishing Tony and Rose Mangino a happy diamond anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR PERRY JEFFERSON

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Major Perry Jefferson. On April 3, 1969, Major Jefferson was an aerial observer on board an O-1G Bird Dog observation aircraft conducting a reconnaissance mission in the Ninh Thuan Province of Vietnam when the aircraft crashed. After an extensive search, Major Jefferson's body was not recovered and he was subsequently listed Missing in Action. However, in 2001, after 32 years, a Vietnamese national turned over remains that were identified to be that of Major Jefferson. Today, Major Jefferson was finally laid to rest in our nation's most hallowed grounds in a moving ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

While growing up in Colorado, Major Jefferson developed a love for geology, wilderness and the mines of Colorado; so much so, that his code word was Geneva Creek, after a tributary of the North Fork South Platte River in central Colorado. A graduate of Southern Methodist University, Major Jefferson joined the Colorado Air National Guard as a technician and intelligence officer with the 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron when it was mobilized to Vietnam in 1968. Major Jefferson was a committed patriot. While in Vietnam, he served his Nation with great distinction. Major Jefferson embodies the spirit and character of Colorado, and I commend his service and sacrifice.

The return of his remains brings closure to his family and friends. I am grateful to have this opportunity and I hope that the 96,000 Americans missing and unaccounted for while serving their country will eventually receive a similar honor.

THE SAVE LIVES FIRST ACT OF 2008

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, 5 years ago, Africa was in crisis and in despair. HIV/AIDS was decimating whole communities. Some countries, such as Botswana, were literally on a path to extinction, with rates of HIV infection among pregnant women in some locations reaching as high as 40 and even 50 percent. In South Africa, while a third of pregnant woman were infected with the virus, the country's political leaders were actually denying that AIDS was caused by HIV infection, an ominous sign that little help was on the way for the over 4 million South Africans—over 10 percent of the population—dying of AIDS.

In 2003, if a woman in sub-Saharan Africa was infected with HIV, the familiar story was all too oft-repeated. She would very likely watch her husband die first, and then her youngest children would also become infected either at birth or through breastfeeding, as she languished under her own death sentence. Within a short time, her children would be orphans, left to fend for themselves in the streets and slums of Nairobi, or Soweto, often getting sick with their own HIV infections and dying alone, without food or shelter or medicine.

The sheer numbers at the time were staggering. The disease affected well over 20 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by the year 2000, roughly equivalent to the total number of American children under 6 years old. The problem seemed overwhelming, indeed hopeless.

What was the world doing to stop the carnage? Were there armies of doctors sweeping in with the miracle drugs that had been saving lives in America and other rich countries for nearly a decade? No. The U.S. was spending under \$200 million a year on HIV/AIDS overseas, mostly on report-writing, some condom marketing, and "capacity-building" programs that never actually used any of the capacity supposedly built and that had no measurable impact on the devouring epidemic.

Treatment was the demand of most global health activists of the day. An indignant group gathered in South Africa in 2002. "While a necessary component of the response to HIV/AIDS, prevention will never be enough," insisted Winston Zulu of the Network of Zambian People Living with HIV/AIDS (NZP+). "When will the world wake up to the fact that the 16 million Africans that have already died of HIV/AIDS? This is only the beginning if we continue down the prevention-only path. This movement will make treatment, which we all know strengthens prevention efforts, our priority demand." Domestic and international chapters of ACT-UP and others were heckling U.S. officials at international health conferences, demanding antiretroviral treatment for people with HIV/AIDS in the developing world, especially in Africa.

And then something remarkable happened. On a cold January night in