

they failed to challenge the prosecution's "junk science" and flawed DNA evidence or to present expert testimony on Leal's learning disabilities and brain damage. Leal, sentenced to death for the 1994 rape and murder of a 16-year-old girl, was then 21 and had no criminal record.

Also, there is no dispute that this treaty is the law: In 2003, Mexico filed suit against the U.S., claiming that 51 Mexican nationals sentenced to death in U.S. courts had been denied consular access. (Leal was one of them.) In 2004, the International Court of Justice ruled that the U.S. must review those individuals' cases. The issue was finally resolved, in 2008, by the U.S. Supreme Court, which unanimously supported the ICJ decision but ruled that it was up to Congress to implement it.

That is what Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy addressed last week, when he introduced legislation to allow federal courts to review such cases, and to increase compliance and provide remedies.

And finally, as Leahy eloquently stated, the U.S. failure to honor its treaty obligations "undercuts our ability to protect Americans abroad and deeply damages our image as a country that abides by its promises and the rule of law. It would also be completely unacceptable to us if our citizens were treated in this manner."

For all of these reasons, we urge Congress to act swiftly to pass this legislation, and we urge Gov. Perry to give Leal, and others in his situation, the time to benefit from its remedies if they are shown to have been harmed.

PERRY, UTAH

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the great city of Perry, UT, on the 100th anniversary of its incorporation.

Today, Perry is a beautiful city of nearly 4,000 residents nestled at the foot of northern Utah's majestic Wasatch Mountains. Its fame and acclaim are extensive for a variety of reasons.

First, it is the apple of many a person's eye because of its location on Utah's famed Fruit Way. Its fruit stands along highway 89 are laden with apples, cherries, apricots, peaches, pears and other produce. I have never found any fruit nearly so sweet in all my travels.

Perry is also home to the legendary Maddox Ranch House, where succulent steaks, fried chicken, homemade rolls and other fare have been food for thought and the palate for locals and many a weary traveler—this Senator, included—for more than six decades.

Best of all, though, are the wonderful residents of Perry. I have always been unfailingly impressed with their work ethic and civic-mindedness their eagerness and willingness to pitch in and build a better future and community for their children and grandchildren.

They also are warm and welcoming. Whenever people pop in, they never seem to be put out. It has been my experience that they are always eager to lend a hand or extend the hand of friendship. I always feel better for being there. It doesn't hurt that my wife Elaine hails from nearby Newton.

Little wonder that every time I am in Perry I feel right at home.

Great places like Perry don't just happen. It takes vision and hard work—a trait Orrin Porter Rockwell and his brother Merritt undoubtedly had in abundance when they laid claim to a piece of land in the area adjacent Porter Spring. They were followed in 1851 by the Mormon pioneers, settlers of faith and fortitude who befriended the Native Americans there and founded what became known as Three Mile Creek.

Many milestones have come and gone since then. In 1861 the first school was built, followed by the groundbreaking for the Northern Utah Railroad 10 years later. And the settlers also weathered some adversity, including harsh winters and the Great Flood of 1896. Two years later, Three Mile Creek was renamed Perry in honor of Orrin Alonzo Perry, who served as an LDS bishop there for more than two decades.

June 19, 1911, the date of Perry's incorporation, was another major event and marked a new beginning. Over the ensuing years, the people of Perry, under the guidance of some remarkable and visionary leaders, kept right on building, bringing electricity, drinking water, a town hall and more schools to the city. Just this year, Perry added a wastewater treatment plant and a soccer park to the mix. And I trust many more chapters remain to be written in Perry's illustrious history.

As Perry celebrates its centennial over the Fourth of July weekend, I salute its visionary and hardworking citizens, both past and present, who have made the city what it is today. I am sure Orrin Porter Rockwell and Orrin Alonzo Perry would be proud. You can be certain that this Orrin is.

EXPLOITING GAPS IN U.S. GUN LAWS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I have long sought to bring attention to the dangerous gaps in U.S. gun laws, hoping the exposure would lead to the passage of commonsense firearm legislation. To those of us who feel that Congress can and should play a role in protecting American neighborhoods from the scourge of gun violence, enacting laws to ensure firearms stay out of the hands of dangerous people seems like a no-brainer. Unfortunately, the National Rifle Association, despite broad support for sensible gun safety laws among Americans across the political spectrum, has successfully blocked much-needed legislative changes.

Recently a startling new voice joined the discussion highlighting the weaknesses in our gun laws, most notably how we administer firearm background checks. Consider the following quote describing the so-called gun show loophole:

America is absolutely awash with easily obtainable firearms. You can go down to a gun show at the local convention center and

come away with a fully automatic assault rifle without a background check and, most likely, without having to show an identification card.

While this quote does not break any new ground regarding the dangers of the gun show loophole, it is noteworthy because of the person who said it. These were not the words of a Member of Congress, advocating for legislation, nor were they the words of a spokesperson of groups like Mayors Against Illegal Guns or the Brady Campaign. This quote is taken from an Internet video message recorded by Adam Gadahn, an American-born, confirmed al-Qaida operative.

In the video, Gadahn speaks to al-Qaida followers and sympathizers, describing the ease with which a person can purchase a firearm from a private seller without a background check, often with no questions asked. In fact, this video is not merely a description of the loopholes in U.S. gun laws, it is an exhortation to would-be terrorists to exploit these loopholes and kill innocent Americans. To wit, the video ends with Gadahn asking his viewers, "What are you waiting for?"

This video is a chilling reminder that dangerous loopholes exist in U.S. gun laws, weaknesses that terrorists are actively trying to exploit. While Gadahn is not entirely accurate—a person cannot purchase a "fully automatic assault" rifle at a gun show without government knowledge—he correctly describes just how simple it is for dangerous individuals to acquire deadly weapons in the United States, including semi-automatic assault rifles.

I urge my colleagues to take up and pass two gun safety bills introduced by Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG: the Gun Show Background Check Act, S. 35, which would close the loophole that makes it easy for criminals, terrorists and other prohibited buyers to evade background checks and buy guns from private citizens at gun shows; and the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act, S. 34, which would close the loophole in Federal law that hinders the ability of law enforcement to keep firearms out of the hands of terrorists by authorizing the Attorney General to deny the sale of a firearm when a background check reveals that the prospective purchaser is a known or suspected terrorist.

Congressional action should not require such stark evidence that al-Qaida and like-minded criminals are trying to use weak U.S. gun laws to carry out terrorist attacks against Americans. But the evidence—clear, explicit and terrifying—is here nonetheless. The time to act is long overdue.

UTAH SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the Utah Shakespeare Festival, the Nation's premier regional theater and one of our State's crown jewels, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Great things often evolve from small or modest beginnings. That was certainly the case in 1961 when Fred C. Adams and his late wife, Barbara, founded the event in Cedar City with lofty goals, a bargain-basement budget of \$1,000, and 21 volunteers. They envisioned what few others could see—that the 150,000 tourists who flocked to the area each summer might also be gathered for a theater festival.

Today, the Utah Shakespeare Festival is the proud recipient of a Tony Award for being the “outstanding regional theatre in America.” It operates year-round, boasts a \$6.6 million budget, employs 26 Equity actors and has another 300 community volunteers. Its repertoire has also expanded. Yes, Shakespeare is still the main attraction, but the festival also stages plays from three centuries of playwrights from all across Europe and the United States.

Not bad for a festival that is 250 miles from Salt Lake City, the State’s largest metropolitan area.

Geography, though, can hardly be the sole consideration for theatre aficionados who wish to attend the festival. It is simply too good and too glorious to miss, for mileage’s sake. That is why I and millions of others have eagerly gone the distance many times to take in Shakespeare’s plays at the open-air Adams Memorial Theatre—modeled after the playwright’s famed Globe Theatre in London—and other offerings at the indoor Randall L. Jones Theatre. Every time I have gone, I have been thoroughly entertained and richly rewarded.

But the past is past, or, as Shakespeare put it, “What is past is prologue.” I look forward to many more productions there, and for the event to capture ever-more acclaim and captivate ever-larger and more appreciative audiences. Perhaps the Bard of Avon’s words best sum up the festival’s future: “The golden age is before us, not behind us.” I firmly believe that to be true.

On this, the 50th anniversary of the Utah Shakespeare Festival, I salute the visionaries like Fred and Barbara Adams, Executive Director R. Scott Phillips, and the scores of organizers, performers, and volunteers who have and continue to make this wonderful event possible.

I commend them for a wonderful 50 years and wish them well as they embark on the next 50 and continue to carry out the festival’s mission to “entertain, enrich and educate.”

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DR. WALTER A. SOBOLEFF, SR.

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I wish to memorialize Dr. Walter A. Soboleff, Sr., who died at his home on May 22, 2011. During a life which spanned more than 102 years, Dr.

Soboleff was revered as one of Alaska’s greatest teachers. A Presbyterian minister, Tlingit scholar and elder, his quiet wisdom, wry humor, and loving leadership bridged cultures to change attitudes and lives.

Born November 14, 1908, in Killisnoo, AK, to a Tlingit mother and the son of a Russian Orthodox priest, Walter was a member of the Yéil moiety, Raven; L’eneidi clan, Dog Salmon; and Aanx’aakhittaana House. His Tlingit names included T’aaw Chán and KaaJaakwti.

From fifth grade through high school, Dr. Soboleff emerged as an academic talent at Sheldon Jackson, a Presbyterian mission school in Sitka, AK. Though baptized by his Russian Orthodox grandfather, his experience at Sheldon Jackson led him to the Presbyterian ministry. Few Alaska Natives had access to college in the 1930s, but Dr. Soboleff was hungry to learn. He attended a term at Oregon State University, fished commercially, and worked the canneries before receiving a full scholarship to the theological seminary at the University of Dubuque, Iowa. He completed his graduate degree there in 1940.

With many offers to fill pulpits around the country, Dr. Soboleff chose to return to Alaska. As the first ordained Alaska Native, he led Juneau’s Memorial Presbyterian Church, a struggling mission to the Tlingits. For many at that time, an integrated church was inconceivable, but Dr. Soboleff’s inspired fusion of Tlingit and Christian spirituality attracted a diverse and growing congregation. His teachings were so resonant that part of his service was broadcast on the radio, and he even had a weekly news program which was broadcast in the Tlingit language.

Although Memorial Church closed in 1962, Dr. Soboleff maintained his spirit, relocating his ministry to the mission boats Anna Jackman and Princeton Hall. On them, he traveled southeast Alaska to serve remote villages, logging camps, and lighthouse stations.

A man who walked his talk, Dr. Soboleff was an activist of quiet strength who dedicated himself to humanitarian service and the preservation of his culture. He exemplified caring, understanding, and mutual respect. When denied housing because he and his wife Genevieve were Native, and when the Presbyterians closed his church without explanation, he chose the high road and subsequently opened doors. He responded to conflict with benevolence and racial bias with equanimity, and his unexpected kindness softened difficult situations to invite open relationships and understanding.

A worker rather than a joiner, Dr. Soboleff belonged to many diverse organizations, all dedicated to human understanding and, for him, the preservation of his culture.

As a member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, he served in all offices including seven terms as grand president.

Through ANB he worked to empower Alaska Natives and develop collaborations with other organizations to shape antidiscrimination and land claims legislation. After passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971, Dr. Soboleff served as a director of the Sealaska Corporation, president of Kootznoowoo, Inc., and chair of the Sealaska Heritage Institute’s Board of Trustees.

As a member of the Lions Club, he helped to found the Gold Medal Basketball Tournament, an event which continues to unite southeast Alaska communities in sport.

As a member of the Alaska National Guard, he served 20 years as chaplain and retired as a lieutenant colonel.

In recognition of his many outstanding achievements, the University of Dubuque awarded Dr. Soboleff an honorary doctorate in divinity in 1952; the University of Alaska would follow suit with an honorary doctorate of humanities in 1968.

Widely recognized as one who understood the value of education, Dr. Soboleff was appointed by Governor Walter J. Hickel to the State board of education. The first Alaska Native to serve, he became chair in 1967. In 1970, he became the first director of Native Studies at UAF. There, he taught Tlingit history, language, and literature. Fluent both in Tlingit and English, he translated stories to revive the Tlingit language and restore his people’s pride in themselves and their heritage. Cross-cultural understanding and human respect were so important to Dr. Soboleff, that he stayed active until the end of his long life, addressing a rally against domestic violence just weeks before his death. His presence and his words, as always, made a difference.

To Dr. Soboleff’s four children, Janet, Sasha, Walter, and Ross, and to his extended family, we send deep condolences along with joy for the gift of his longevity. While Alaska has lost one of the greatest of her leaders, the teachings of Walter A. Soboleff have shaped how we view ourselves and how we treat one another. Those touched by his spirit have been changed for the better, and his legacy lives on.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)