

Thomas Rosas, 34, Chicago, IL;
 Taurian L. Smith, 19, Lincoln, NE;
 Mark Spicer, 21, Chicago, IL;
 Steven Steiner, 23, San Bernardino,
 CA;
 Robert Tucker, 61, Houston, TX; and
 Bijan K. Washington, 25, Seattle, WA;
 December 13, 1999:
 Barbra Amundson, 43, San Francisco,
 CA;
 Keith Barnes, 18, Kansas City, MO;
 Gerardo Garcia, Dallas, TX;
 Zhen Liu Guo, 47, Washington, DC;
 Everette Ragin, 20, Charlotte, NC;
 Steven Shepherd, 18, Kansas City,
 MO;
 Eugene A. Sims, 22, Seattle, WA;
 Jason Thomas, 19, Atlanta, GA;
 Marjorie Warren, 48, San Francisco,
 CA;
 Unidentified Female, Newark, NJ;
 and
 Unidentified Male, 35, Norfolk, VA.

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The deaths of these people are a reminder to all of us that we need to enact sensible gun legislation now.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR FRANK LAUTENBERG

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute today to a retiring colleague, my friend, Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG.

I have served with FRANK LAUTENBERG in the Senate for the past eighteen years and watched him grow from a man of great accomplishment and success in the private sector to a highly effective and admired public servant. FRANK has left his mark of distinction on our nation's laws in a number of areas reflecting his broad interests and expertise. He has served as the Ranking Democrat on the Senate Budget Committee, leading the Democrats in our efforts to fashion a federal budget which meets our nation's priorities while working to pay down the national debt. In addition, FRANK is a leader on transportation policy, gun safety, and environmental issues among others.

FRANK LAUTENBERG was the author of legislation which banned smoking America's airlines, a wise action which all of us who fly appreciate more and more each year as we learn about the effects of recirculated cigarette smoke. He wrote the bill which established the age of 21 as the national legal drinking age, an action clearly responsible for the saving of many American lives. And, he passed legislation to prohibit anyone convicted of domestic violence from owning a gun.

Senator LAUTENBERG, also led efforts in the Senate culminating in passage of the transportation bill and as the Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee's Transportation Subcommittee, he has fought many battles for sound investment in the nation's

highways and as a particular friend of mass transportation.

As the Ranking Democrat on the Senate's Budget Committee, Senator LAUTENBERG has been a consistent voice in support of a balance budget, paying down the national debt, and investing in America's future. He coauthored the historic Balance Budget Agreement of 1997.

FRANK LAUTENBERG has served in the Senate since 1982. He is a friend and ally in many legislative battles whom I will miss deeply in the years ahead. However, FRANK is a man of tremendous energy and vision. That energy and vision will continue to serve our nation because FRANK LAUTENBERG's love of this nation is so deep and abiding that as long as he has breath he will be advancing its ideals.

THE SUPREME COURT DECISION IN THE CASE OF BUSH VERSUS GORE AND ITS AFTERMATH

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am heartbroken that the Supreme Court has issued an opinion that, to me, undermines a core democratic principle—that every vote counts and every vote must be counted.

I am also perplexed that the Court sent the case back to the Florida Supreme Court for further proceedings on the recount, since it did so while also suggesting that time had run out for the recount. That suggestion is disingenuous, considering that the U.S. Supreme Court itself helped cause the clock to run out when it voted 5-4 to stop the recount last Saturday by issuing a stay.

I want to compliment the four justices who voted against the stay order—Justices Stevens, Souter, Breyer and Ginsberg—two appointed by Republican Presidents and two by a Democrat. While several of them recognized constitutional problems in the way the recount was being carried out, they clearly understood the overriding importance of counting every legal vote.

In his dissenting opinion, Justice John Paul Stevens pointed out that the Florida Supreme Court, in ordering the recount, merely “. . . did what courts do—it decided the case before it in light of the legislature's intent to leave no legally cast vote uncounted.”

He stated that in its action “the majority effectively orders the disenfranchisement of an unknown number of voters whose ballots reveal their intent—and are therefore legal votes under state law—but were for some reason rejected by ballot-counting machines.”

The closing words of Justice Stevens, I believe, will go down in history as the thoughts of a great Supreme Court justice:

Although we may never know with complete certainty the identity of the winner of

this presidential election, the identity of the loser is perfectly clear. It is the Nation's confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the rule of law.

When the next President is sworn into office in January, I pledge to do all that I can to help the country put this extraordinary and unsettling election behind us. I will do my best in the United States Senate to advance the interests of the people of California, who have so many needs and rights that remain to be addressed.

There are many lessons to be learned from these events. We need to change our election procedures to make them uniformly as reliable and accurate as possible, so that we will never again be in this situation. And more Americans must now realize that their participation in the political process is vitally important. I will work on these challenges in the coming months, for the sake of Californians and for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR CHUCK ROBB

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to my colleague on the Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, Senator CHUCK ROBB. As his career in the Senate comes to a close, Senator ROBB leaves behind a career in public service that he and the Virginians he served so well should be proud of.

CHUCK ROBB has served his nation as a United States Marine, as Lieutenant Governor and Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for the last twelve years as a member of the United States Senate. CHUCK ROBB has been a public servant in the truest sense. He has always put the nation's interest first, and self-interest last.

During the twelve years I have served with Senator ROBB on the Armed Services Committee, he has proven himself to be a champion of a strong national defense, of the men and women who wear our nation's uniform, and of his fellow veterans.

On the Armed Services Committee, he has been first and foremost a devoted advocate of a strong Navy-Marine Corps team. While Senator ROBB has never been one to tout his own accomplishments, his pride in and love for the United States Marine Corps is one thing he has never been able to hide.

Senator ROBB has worked hard on military readiness, quality of life, and modernization. He sponsored the targeted recruiting and retention bonuses Congress enacted last year for critical skills where they would have the most payoff for the military. He was a leader in providing promised health care benefits to military retirees. He has worked hard to get the Navy to develop a long term plan to fund enough ships to maintain the Navy we need for the