September 21, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred November 30, 1993 in Tyler, TX. Nicholas West, a 23-year-old gay man, was abducted from a park known as a meeting place for gays, robbed and shot to death. Donald Aldrich, 29, David Ray McMillan, 17, and Henry Dunn Jr., 19, were charged with murder. I believe that government’s first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID BOHLEY

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I ask the Senate to pause long enough to recognize an outstanding member of my staff who is moving on to new challenges and new opportunities. Dave Bohley has been a member of my Small Business Technology Transfer program legislation currently working its way through the Congress. Dave’s expertise recently attracted him into a new career at Fannie Mae, the financial services company. Although I am happy for him to have this new opportunity, I am sorry to see him leave my staff. Fannie Mae’s gain is truly our loss. I wish him every success and thank him so very much for his exemplary service to me and to the Senate.

NATURALIZATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

Mr. KOHL. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the tragic deaths of Larry Groff and Lars Stratte, pilots who were killed on August 27, 2001 in a mid-air tanker collision while fighting the Bus Fire in Northern California. Both pilots were flying Grumman S-2 aircraft and were making fire retardant drops on the fire when they collided.

Larry Groff and Lars Stratte were established and dedicated pilots who have recorded numerous hours of flying time. Both pilots were employees of San Joaquin Helicopters, Incorporated. Larry Groff was a 20 year Navy Veteran pilot and Lars Stratte was Past President of the Redding Area Pilots Association.

We will never forget the service of these courageous and extraordinary individuals. Because their focus remains true. As the days and weeks progress and the chances of finding survivors wane, they press on, their hope and determination strong.

On behalf of all Missourians I express my sincere and heartfelt appreciation to the heroes and heroines who make up Missouri Task Force One. They are shining examples of the best Missouri has to offer and an inspiration to the world.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the tragic deaths of Larry Groff and Lars Stratte, who were killed in the line of duty. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I wish to describe a terrible crime that occurred November 30, 1993 in Tyler, TX. Nicholas West, a 23-year-old gay man, was abducted from a park known as a meeting place for gays, robbed and shot to death. Donald Aldrich, 29, David Ray McMillan, 17, and Henry Dunn Jr., 19, were charged with murder.

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IN MEMORY OF TWO BRAVE CALIFORNIA PILOTS, LARRY GROFF AND LARS STRATTE

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I rise today to remember the heroic efforts of Larry Groff and Lars Stratte, pilot’s who were killed on August 27, 2001 in a mid-air tanker collision while fighting the Bus Fire in Northern California. Both pilots were flying Grumman S-2 aircraft and were making fire retardant drops on the fire when they collided.

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