CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
17531

September 21, 2001

Dr. BONN. Madam President, I rise today as an original cosponsor of the Bruce Vento Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act introduced today would give those eligible an additional 18 months to apply for citizenship under the Naturalization Act.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I ask my colleagues in support of H. Con. Res 227 condemning bigotry and violence against Arab, Muslim, and South Asian Americans.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I urge expeditious consideration of this legislation.

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in sup- port of H. Con. Res 227 condemning bigotry and violence against Arab, Muslim, and South Asian Americans.

Mr. BOND. 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 En- hancement 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 my colleagues to join me in celebrating the heroic service of David Bohley.

Mr. BOND. 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 Cali- fornia. Both pilots were flying Gruman S-2 aircraft and were making fire retardant drops on the fire when they collided.

Larry Groff and Lars Stratte were es- tablished 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 Presi- dent of the Redding Area Pilots Asso- ciation.

We will never forget the service of these two brave Californian pilots, 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 Presi- dent, 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.

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IN MEMORY OF TWO BRAVE CALI- FORNIA PILOTS, LARRY GROFF AND LARS STRATTE

Mrs. BOXER. 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 Cali- fornia. Both pilots were flying Gruman S-2 aircraft and were making fire retardant drops on the fire when they collided.

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Mr. BOHLEY. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the heroic service of David Bohley.

As history has shown, America has always triumphed when we are united. That is why it is so important in this chapter in our history, as we prepare to defend and preserve our Nation, that we stay united as one Nation. This should not be an occasion for irrational impulses of fear, hate or violence to- wards Arab-Americans, Muslim Ameri- cans, South Asian Americans, or any other person in this country. Such ac- tions are wrong. The idea of ‘America’ knows no racial, ethnic, or religious boundaries, and no American should have to live in fear as a result of this situation. I stand together with my colleagues, and with Americans of all backgrounds, in condemning such ac- tions. We must renew our commitment to protect our fellow Americans and our Nation against those who want to divide us with hate.

Unfortunately, there has been a rash of hate crimes and incidents, compounding the anxiety of Americans in communities throughout this Na- tion. I have been saddened to hear of incidents in my own State. Ashraf “Mike” Khaled, a Wisconsin resident of Arab descent and gas station owner, has been the victim of several incidents of hateful statements and threats of his safety by customers and