

And the meeting place? Perhaps the Javits Center or Governors Island or Liberty Island. Or somewhere downtown near the scene of the carnage. There would be obstacles involving logistics and security, but they can be overcome, as they were when the President and the Senate delegation visited. This proposal can be brought to fruition.

In the context of U.S. history, there are strong parallels for Congress coming to New York. The city was the home of the Continental Congress beginning in 1785. And when the federal Constitution was adopted, the first Congress met here in 1789. George Washington was sworn into office downtown, blocks from what is now Ground Zero. The first meetings of the House of Representatives and the Senate were held here.

Though the official seat of power remained in New York for only about a year, during that time the basic functions of the U.S. government were set in place. It was in New York that Congress wrote the Bill of Rights and submitted the amendments to the states. It was in New York that the Supreme Court was established. And it was in New York, on another Sept. 11—in 1789—that the Senate voted to confirm the first administration's first cabinet member: New Yorker Alexander Hamilton as treasury secretary.

In 1790, Congress moved to Philadelphia, and 10 years later to its new Capitol building in the nation's new capital city of Washington. The last time Congress did not meet at the Capitol was during the War of 1812, when the British burned the building. That was also the last time—until Sept. 11, 2001—that a foreign enemy struck the American mainland.

For generations, America was protected by two broad oceans. No more. We have become a battleground. We are making history anew. And with a simple, yet far-reaching action, Congress can come to New York and write a new chapter in the indelible ink of national fortitude. Congress already has acted to assist our wounded city, approving \$20 billion in aid for New York, with more likely to follow. What we ask for here is symbolic. Just as the terrorists chose the World Trade Center and Pentagon as symbols, America should render its own symbol—of unity, strength and resolve such as the world has never seen.

SOBERING STATISTICS ON CHILDREN AND GUNS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to enter into the RECORD a few facts about guns and children. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every 7 hours a child or teen was killed in a firearm-related accident or suicide in 1999. From 1994–1999, an average of five children died every day in non-homicide firearm incidents. In the same period, more than 2,100 children were killed in firearm accidents. In the 1990s, an average of 1,370 kids committed suicide with a firearm each year. More than 150 each year were children under the age of fifteen. In 1997, hospital emergency rooms treated four children with gun shot wounds for every child killed with a firearm. And a 1997 CDC study reported that the overall firearm-related death rate among children in the United States who are less than fifteen years old was nearly twelve times higher than among

children in twenty-five other industrialized countries combined.

These sobering statistics remind us of the importance of strengthening our gun laws to limit children's access to guns. I urge my fellow Senators to join me in support of meaningful gun safety legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DONALD E. FLEMING

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an American who has honorably served our Nation for 28 years: Colonel Donald E. Fleming, U.S. Marine Corps. Colonel Fleming has served with distinction, throughout wartime and in times of peace. In 1990 and 1991, during the Gulf War, Colonel Fleming served as the executive officer to a Harrier Attack Squadron in support of Marine ground troops in Operation Desert Storm. He was involved in numerous sorties against Iraqi forces, which enabled ground combat troops to successfully attack and take Iraqi forces. This was a highly dangerous task as Marine aircraft were constantly exposed to enemy fire. Colonel Fleming was prepared to give his life for those Marines on the ground to be successful in completing their missions.

Colonel Fleming's last assignment was as the deputy legislative assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. This was a highly responsible assignment in that the Colonel served not only the Commandant of the Marine Corps, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, but the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate as well. Colonel Fleming was thoroughly involved with ensuring that the numerous congressional inquiries were completed in a timely and correct manner. This is a large task, especially during the hearing season, when Members of Congress and their staffs address many questions and concerns to the military departments. Additionally, Colonel Fleming was responsible for the final coordination of significant congressional and staff delegations that took place literally all over the world.

I thank Don for his unswerving dedication to serving the U.S. Congress. He has served our Nation and the U.S. Congress in the finest traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps. I wish Don well in his future endeavors as he enters a new phase of his life. Colonel Fleming's service to his country and his Corps has been laudatory. I am deeply appreciative that we have Marines like Colonel Fleming, who are of such high caliber and sincere conviction. May God bless Colonel Don Fleming and his family, and may fair winds and following seas follow Colonel Fleming throughout his new career.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EUGENE M. LANG I HAVE A DREAM FOUNDATION

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today, I would like to recognize a remarkable individual whose efforts rank high among those that have marked the great history of this Nation. Eugene M. Lang is a dedicated philanthropist and supporter of education. His selflessness, sense of pride, and love for his country have been demonstrated in his commitment to the present and the future of young people all across America, through his I Have a Dream Foundation. This weekend, November 15–17, 2001, Mr. Lang and the Foundation will celebrate 20 years of education achievement.

The path leading up to 20 years of education successes began on June 25, 1981. It was then that Eugene Lang, a New York businessman would return to his old elementary school, P.S. 121, in East Harlem to address the graduating sixth-graders. His original plan was to deliver a standard message that if you worked hard you would succeed. However, after arriving at his alma mater, he was told that his old school had changed—that 75 percent of P.S. 121's children would never graduate from high school, and that even those who did get high school diplomas would probably lack the skills needed for college. The startling news, prompted Mr. Lang to make an extraordinary promise to the sixth-graders that day. He made an impromptu decision and announced that if the 61 middle schoolers graduated from high school he would provide financial assistance to help them pay for college. This wonderful benefactor told the children that they must have a dream for the future, and that he would help them achieve it.

Having made a promise, Lang went even further to help the P.S. 121 sixth-graders. He provided the children with support services and hired a social worker to work with them. With the involvement of education and social science professionals, Mr. Lang's vision evolved into the I Have a Dream program and the P.S. 121 kids became the first "Dreamers."

In August 1985, after 4 years, all of Lang's Dreamers were still in school garnering national attention including a front page story in the New York Times and a segment on 60 Minutes. This spurred Lang to organize the national I Have a Dream Foundation in 1986 and help launch a new generation of Foundation projects.

Of the 54 original Dreamers who remained in contact with Mr. Lang's project, more than 90 percent earned their high school diploma or GED certificate and 60 percent went on to higher education, mostly at public 4-year or community colleges. In June 1991, the first Dreamers received baccalaureate degrees from colleges such as Bard and Barnard; others subsequently graduated from Swarthmore, Rensselaer