

raising this issue. The person he is referring to is the mother of a 5-year-old. I also have taken as a cause Ngawang Choephel, who is a young man from Tibet who attended college and then went back to Tibet to work on trying to make a history of the language and the culture there and was arrested and, without any trial at all, imprisoned and still is in prison.

I finally had to go to the Chinese just to get the mother to see her son, which she was guaranteed to do under Chinese law. We finally did succeed in getting the two together, but he remains incarcerated in Tibet.

These are just a few, I am sure, of many such incidents. We should always keep these in mind when we decide what kind of relationship we are going to have with China.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEVE PENN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Steve Penn for his meritorious service to the U.S. Senate both as a Legislative Fellow and as the Deputy Director of the Marine Corps Liaison Office from July 19, 1996 to April 24, 2001. Lieutenant Colonel Penn's uncompromising professionalism and interpersonal skills provided an immense contribution to the mission of communicating the Commandant's message in the United States Senate. As a fellow, he expertly advised Senator ROBERTS and his staff on matters of national security. In the Senate Liaison Office, he led scores of congressional and staff delegations on fact-finding trips to all corners of the globe with unparalleled ease. Additionally, he routinely prepared and delivered briefs to Senators often involving very complex military and Marine Corps issues, always with diplomacy and candor. Lieutenant Colonel Penn consistently maintained uncompromising standards for dedication and accuracy in his work. His personal pride and loyalty to the Marine Corps guided his work and deeds, and resulted in superior results. His unselfish devotion to duty, exceptional performance, and outstanding professionalism have served the Members of Congress and the professional staff well, and provided a priceless contribution to the Marine Corps. My colleagues join me in wishing Lieutenant Colonel Penn all the very best in his next assignment as a member of the Inspector and Instructor Staff, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines in Encino, California.

#### HONORING THE AAA SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL LIFESAVING MEDAL AWARD WINNERS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I am proud to announce to the Senate today

the names of the young men and women who have been selected to receive special awards from the American Automobile Association. Three safety patrollers will receive the 2000 AAA School Safety Patrol Lifesaving Medal Award. This award is the highest honor given to members of the school safety patrol.

There are roughly 500,000 members of the school safety patrol in this country, helping in over 50,000 schools. Every day, these young people ensure that their peers arrive safely at school in the morning, and back home in the afternoon.

Most of the time, they accomplish their jobs uneventfully. But, on occasion, these volunteers must make split-second decisions, placing themselves in harm's way to save the lives of others. The heroic actions of this year's recipients exemplify this selflessness, and richly deserve recognition.

The first AAA Lifesaving Medal recipient comes from South San Francisco, CA.

On September 28, 2000, just as children were leaving Our Lady of Mercy School for the day, a car hit another car, veered out of control and plowed into the school parking lot. Safety patroller Dustin Ramirez helped maintain control until rescue and police officials arrived. His quick thinking and courage helped prevent any students from being hurt.

This year's second AAA Lifesaving Medal honoree comes from Brooklyn Center, MN.

On January 4, 2001, safety patroller Stefani Egnell was preventing students at Willow Lane Elementary School from crossing the street until she could determine if a speeding car was going to stop. Stefani prevented one 8-year-old girl from stepping in front of the car. She also pulled a boy who hadn't heard her warning back out of harm's way.

The third AAA Lifesaving Medal winner comes from Manassas, VA.

In March 2000, quick action by safety patroller Jonathan Waldron stopped a third grade student from being hit by a bus that had begun pulling away from the curb. Since the youngster was in the blind spot of the bus, the driver did not see him. Jonathan pulled him out of the path of the bus and prevented what could have been a tragedy.

In addition to honoring safety patrollers with the Lifesaving Medal Award, AAA also recognizes the School Safety Patroller of the year. This award is presented to patrollers who have performed their duties above and beyond their normal responsibilities and demonstrate outstanding leadership, dependability, and academic strength.

Courtney Graf Bernet has been named School Safety Patroller of the Year by AAA Mid-Atlantic. Courtney is a sixth-grader at Lee's Corner Elementary School in Fairfax, VA. In Novem-

ber, 2000, Courtney was on patrol duty when a fellow student alerted her that he was having a seizure. Courtney instinctively knew what to do to make the student safe and comfortable. She helped him sit down on a soft, grassy area, took off his backpack so he wouldn't hurt himself, and sent his sister for help. After the crisis was over, she also made sure the other students at the stop safely got on their bus.

Courtney's friends and teachers describe her as courageous and responsible. She excels at using computers, and when she is faced with a challenge, she perseveres until she succeeds. She and all of the other AAA winners deserve our thanks and applause.

On behalf of the Senate, I extend congratulations and thanks to these young women and men who are visiting the Capitol today. They are an asset to their communities, and their families and neighbors should be very proud of their courage and dedication.

I would also like to recognize the American Automobile Association for providing the supplies and training necessary to keep the safety patrol on duty nationwide.

Since the 1920's, AAA clubs across the country have been sponsoring student safety patrols to guide and protect younger classmates against traffic accidents. Easily recognizable by their fluorescent orange safety belt and shoulder strap, safety patrol members represent the very best of their schools and communities. Experts credit school safety patrol programs with helping to lower the number of traffic accidents and fatalities involving young children.

We owe AAA our gratitude for their tireless efforts to ensure that our Nation's children arrive to and from school safe and sound.

And we owe our thanks to these exceptional young men and women for their selfless actions. The discipline and courage they displayed deserves the praise and recognition of their schools, their communities and the Nation.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY last month. 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.

Today, I would like to detail a heinous crime that occurred August 8, 2000 in Providence, Rhode Island. Two young men said they were severely beaten and kicked by two strangers. The two victims were walking down a street when a car slowed and passed them. Minutes later the car drove by again, and the occupants began shouting vulgarities, anti-gay slurs and said,