MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. I ask unanimous consent there be a period for morning business with Senators to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On November 7, 2005, in New York City, NY, Kyle Spidle was attacked near the Monster Bar where he worked. The attack began when two men began yelling from a vehicle at Mr. Spidle about the way he was walking down the street. When Mr. Spidle yelled back the pair of men got out of the car and began attacking him. According to police, the pair hurled homophobic epithets at Mr. Spidle as they beat him.

I believe that our Government’s first duty is to defend its citizens, in all circumstances, from threats to them at home. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a major step forward in achieving that goal. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MONTANA’S BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Bryant Elementary School, Chief Joseph Elementary School, and Huntley Project Elementary School. Montana is proud and I am honored to recognize these three schools identified as blue ribbon schools under No Child Left Behind.

As the spouse of a schoolteacher, I understand the many difficulties our schools face. Each and every day, parents entrust their child to the hands of teachers. We must be educated, cared for, and disciplined. These three Montana schools have received this important award, and were honored last week at the Department of Education. I thank the staff, teachers, and parents for their hard work to make such success possible. The Blue Ribbon Award is no small achievement—students from these schools are in the top 10 percent of students across the State. I am honored to acknowledge them for their work.

Principals Howard Corey, Rick Knisely, and Russell Van Hook all understand the importance an education can have on the life of a child, as well as the significant role parents and the community play in the development of these future leaders. They should be commended for their leadership and vision which produced such meaningful results.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the students at each of these institutions. While the adults have provided the foundation for a positive and educational classroom experience, ultimately the students decide to succeed for themselves, meeting and exceeding the high standards set for them. I am confident that we are raising the next generation of successful Americans to be productive and educated members of society. I am especially proud of the progress that these Montana students have made, and I urge them to keep up the good work. I am proud of each and every one of you. To the students, educators, and parents, thanks for all the good work you do.

HONORING MAYOR JOHN O. COTANT

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President: I would like to pay special tribute today to a remarkable man who has dedicated the past 36 years of his life to the citizens of Chubbuck, ID. Mayor John O. Cotant entered the Chubbuck mayoral race the night before the elections in 1969. He won and has been mayor ever since. Through his dedication to youth and community improvement, Chubbuck has become the thriving town of 10,000 it is today. Under his exemplary leadership, Chubbuck increased the number of city parks from 1 to 14. He initiated the construction of a monument to veterans of our wars and his love of sports inspired him to promote a thriving youth sports program for the city.

He brought critical infrastructure improvements to the community, to position Chubbuck for the vibrant growth it is experiencing today. John and his wife Jeannette have the proud parents of 3, grandparents of 13 and great-grandparents of 19 children. He has been very involved in his church, serving as Bishop, the ecclesiastical teacher, of his LDS church congregation. At a robust 81, he says that he is going to pursue his personal interests of genealogy and a collection of city memorabilia, and make a point of not volunteering for anything controversial. I must say I understand the sentiment. Local public servants like John are the lifeblood of our civic community and our daily lives in rural towns not just in Idaho, but across the Nation. As a mayor of a smaller city, you are on duty and under the spotlight 24 hours a day. It is quite a testament to John’s character, energy and spirit that he has served for so many years. I congratulate him on three and a half decades of community commitment service and wish him and Alice the very best in the next exciting chapter of their life together.

WHEREAS, The Armed Forces of the United States have been charged with the responsibility to carry out its missions, which includes the Global War on Terror, is hindered when competent and qualified individuals are involuntarily discharged from those forces; and

WHEREAS, The Armed Forces of the United States have been forced to retain Reserve and National Guard service members on active duty past standard deployment lengths in order to carry out its missions during the Global War on Terror; and

WHEREAS, The ability of the Armed Forces to recruit and retain the best and brightest Americans is hindered by excluding a section of the population solely because of sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, Lesbian and gay service members have served honorably throughout United States history and continue to serve with distinction on active duty in the Global War on Terror, including in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, These men and women have achieved military honors, decorations, and promotions to the highest ranks of their respective services for their valor and service to the people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, America’s allies in the war on terror, like the United Kingdom, Australia, and Israel, all allow lesbian and gay service members to serve openly; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Whereas, the Department of Defense reported that 297 language specialists have been discharged from the military under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, including 54 Arabic and 9 Farsi translators, vitally important positions to intelligence gathering.

Whereas, the United States military’s readiness to protect and defend our nation is threatened by the arbitrary enforcement by commanders of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

Whereas, A February 2005 Government Accountability Office report shows that more than 9,486 service members have been discharged under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, including at least 757 service members in “critical occupations,” such as counterintelligence experts, at a cost to taxpayers of more than $190 million; and

Whereas, The Department of Defense reported that 297 language specialists have been discharged from the military under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, including 54 Arabic and 9 Farsi translators, vitally important positions to intelligence gathering and in critical shortage; and

Whereas, Evidence from a study conducted by the Center for the Study Of Sexual Minorities in the Military suggests that the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy increases gay troops’ stress levels, lowers their morale, impairs their ability to form trusting bonds with their peers, restricts their access to medical care, psychological services and religious services, and limits their ability to advance professionally and their willingness to join and remain in the services; and

Whereas, Every Department of Defense authorizer study has shown that there is no correlation between sexual orientation and unit cohesion in the Armed Forces; and

Whereas, The majority of American citizen groups supporting keeping trained and skilled openly gay and lesbian service members in the military; and

Whereas, The United States military’s readiness to protect and defend our nation is severely compromised because of the discriminatory “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy that is arbitrarily enforced by commanders whose personal beliefs may influence their disciplinary actions; and

Whereas, Discharges under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” are historically fewer when troop strength is low as in times of peace. In which which denotes the tacit recognition by the military that lesbian and gay service members are fit and capable of military service, thereby further illustrating the arbitrary enforcement of this policy; and

Whereas, California has 26 military bases which are home to tens of thousands of military personnel and their families, and, according to a 2004 Urban Institute study, an estimated 337,000 lesbian and gay veterans live in California; and

Whereas, The Legislature and courts of the State of California have extended protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity that affirm the equality under the law of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens in order to prevent invidious discrimination; and

Whereas, In 2004 the California Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, legislation that protects nonfederally recognized personnel in the California State Military from the threat of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”; and

Whereas, Readiness is enhanced when every qualified, capable American, regardless of sexual orientation, is welcomed into our Armed Forces and has their talents utilized in the defense of our national security; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature of California respectfully urge the President and the Congress of the United States to adopt the Millitary Readiness Enhancement Act of 2005 (H.R. 1059) to end the discriminatory federal policy of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit this resolution to the President of the United States, to each Senator and Representative in the Congress of the United States, and to the presiding officer of each house of each state legislature of the several states.

POM-213. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to expressing opposition to the implementation of the "Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell" policy, to authorize a study to be conducted by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission to determine the impact of implementation of the "Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell" policy, and to authorize the Governor to send the results of the study to the President of the United States, to the Senate and House of Representatives of each state legislature of the several states, and to the Congress of the United States, to the President of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 57

Whereas, The Detroit-Windsor and Port Huron-Sarnia border crossings of Southwest Michigan/Southwest Ontario are the busiest international crossings in North America, representing nearly 50 percent of the traffic crossing the United States-Canadian border. In 2000, American trade with Ontario reached $243 billion, which is larger than the total U.S. trade with Japan.

Whereas, More than 75,000 vehicles use the Southeast Michigan/Southwest Ontario border crossings each day. Traffic at the Michigan and Ontario crossings has grown about 44 percent from 19.7 million vehicles in 1990 to 28.4 million vehicles in 2000. Truck traffic at these ports has more than doubled from 2.5 percent in 1990 to 5.1 million in 2000. Over the next thirty years, the cross-border traffic along the Detroit-Windsor corridor is projected to increase 40 percent in car traffic and 120 percent in truck traffic. This corresponds to an increase in daily cross-border car trips from 52,000 to 70,000 and an increase in daily cross-border truck trips from 13,000 to 26,000; and

Whereas, The Canada-US-Ontario-Michigan Border Transportation Partnership is conducting a Planning/Need and Feasibility Study to examine existing and future cross-border transportation problems and opportunities within the Southwest Michigan and Southwest Ontario corridor. In June 2000, the partnership proposed several international crossing alternatives that address these transportation problems and opportunities. Each alternative would involve a massive reconfiguration to either the I-275 or I-75 interchange area and significant problems for pilots flying out of Detroit Metro. Any one of the proposed bridges will pose significant problems for pilots flying out of Grosse Ile Municipal Airports and will create noise abatement methods. The proposed King Road plazas bridge would span Grosse Ile along Horse Mill road, with an attendant plaza facility near Channel and East River Roads. This proposed facility would either destroy or have a decidedly negative impact on hundreds of homes, businesses, and resi-dences, a Presbyterian Church and cemetery, a Roman Catholic Church and cemetery, sensitive wetlands, marshes, woods, and transition areas, and a number of locations on the Michigan Register of Historic Sites. The partnership also proposed the historical landing site of Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, who camped on Grosse Ile more than 300 years ago before proceeding upriver to settle modern-day Detroit. The two proposed Pennsylvania Road plaza bridges would extend over Hennepin Point, located on the northern end of Grosse Ile. Any one of the proposed bridges will pose significant problems for pilots flying out of Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, endanger the 27 species of waterfowl, 17 species of raptors (eagles, hawks, and falcons), 48 species of nonraptors (ducks, warblers, neotropical songbirds, cranes, and shorebirds) and bring peril to numerous species of dragonflies and butterflies that migrate to the Grosse Ile coastal wetlands; and

Whereas, The construction of one of three alternative bridges connecting the river crossing plazas to Ontario via Grosse Ile. Anyone of the alternative bridges would produce intolerable noise abatement methods. The proposed King Road plazas bridge would span Grosse Ile along Horse Mill road, with an attendant plaza facility near Channel and East River Roads. This proposed facility would either destroy or have a decidedly negative impact on hundreds of homes, businesses, and residences, a Presbyterian Church and cemetery, a Roman Catholic Church and cemetery, sensitive wetlands, marshes, woods, and transition areas, and a number of locations on the Michigan Register of Historic Sites. The partnership also proposed the historical landing site of Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, who camped on Grosse Ile more than 300 years ago before proceeding upriver to settle modern-day Detroit. The two proposed Pennsylvania Road plaza bridges would extend over Hennepin Point, located on the northern end of Grosse Ile. Any one of the proposed bridges will pose significant problems for pilots flying out of Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, endanger the 27 species of waterfowl, 17 species of raptors (eagles, hawks, and falcons), 48 species of nonraptors (ducks, warblers, neotropical songbirds, cranes, and shorebirds) and bring peril to numerous species of dragonflies and butterflies that migrate to the Grosse Ile coastal wetlands; and

Whereas, The construction of an international bridge crossing in the Downriver area will have a detrimental impact on the Detroit River, the first river to be designated a National Waterway, and a National Wildfi-
Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-215. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); to provide energy assistance to low-income households; and prohibiting human cloning; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will receive $120 million, the same amount it received last year; and

Whereas, More than 70% of eligible residential customers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania receive assistance due to lack of funding; and

Whereas, Some increases in home heating prices is due to devastation from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

Whereas, While the Gulf Coast states were directly struck by Hurricane Katrina and Rita, northeastern states have felt the impact of the storms through a sharp increase in natural gas, electric and home heating oil costs; and

Whereas, Home heating oil prices have risen steadily over the past several years and are predicted to be even higher for this winter; and

Whereas, Natural gas, electric and home heating oil prices have risen steadily over the past several years and are predicted to be even higher for this winter; and

Whereas, Natural gas companies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania receive 80% of their natural gas supply from the Gulf Coast suppliers; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize Congress to appropriate supplemental LIHEAP funds as part of any disaster relief legislation to assist those states which will be impacted by higher prices and shortages in the midst of a predicted harsh winter; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted by the Office of the Clerk to the Members of the House of Representatives, and the Members of the Senate; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-216. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of South Charleston, West Virginia relative to the withdrawal of troops from Iraq; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-217. A resolution adopted by the California State Lands Commission relative to open pit at the Secretarial General Munro in Oil and Gas Leasing off the California Coast; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-218. A resolution adopted by the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury of the State of Louisiana relative to temporarily removing the embargo restrictions on Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-219. A resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles of the State of California relative to supporting House Resolution 316 and House Concurrent Resolution 185 which relate to the Israeli-Gaza war of 1967; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-220. A resolution adopted by the Township Council, Township of South Brunswick, State of New Jersey relative to expressing disapproval of those sections of the Patriot Act that may infringe upon fundamental civil rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

Mr. STEVENS, Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination be considered to be part of any disaster relief legislation to assist those states which will be impacted by higher prices and shortages in the midst of a predicted harsh winter; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Clerk of the United States Senate and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives.

Whereas, The United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives has twice passed legislation to prohibit human cloning; and

Whereas, An estimated 128 million Americans suffer from the crippling economic and psychological burden of chronic, degenerative, and acute diseases, including diabetes, Parkinson’s disease, cancer, and Alzheimer’s disease; and

Whereas, Chronic, degenerative, and acute disease result in extreme human loss and suffering for those who suffer from them and their families and caregivers, and result in hundreds of billions of dollars annually in medical treatment and lost productivity costs; and

Whereas, Stem cell research offers immense promise for developing new medical therapies for these debilitating diseases and a critical means to explore fundamental questions of biology and could lead to improved treatments and potential cures for diabetes, Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease, spinal cord injuries, burns, cancer, heart disease, and other diseases; and

Whereas, The United States has historically taken a leading role in funding biomedical research and has been a haven for open scientific inquiry and technological innovation, and, as a result, is the preeminent world leader in biomedicine and biotechnology; and

Whereas, On August 9, 2001, the President adopted a policy that restricts federal funding for embryonic stem cell research to a limited number of embryonic stem cell lines that were in existence as of that time, and subsequent research has found those existing stem cell lines to be significantly limited in their ability to support stem cell research; and

Whereas, The United States House of Representatives has twice passed legislation to prohibit some forms of stem cell research, but voted against it in 2005, to allow federal funding for stem cell research using excess embryos from fertility clinics; and

Whereas, California voters approved Proposition 71 in November 2004, which will provide $3 billion over 10 years for stem cell research in California; and

Whereas, The Legislature has enacted legislation authorizing research involving the derivation and use of human stem cells, human embryonic germ cells, and human adult stem cells from any source, including somatic cell nuclear transplantation, shall be permitted in California, calling for the development of ethical guidelines for stem cell research, and prohibiting human cloning; and

Whereas, In 2005, the National Academy of Sciences issued guidelines for conducting human embryonic stem cell research in an ethical and responsible manner; and

Whereas, Similar guidelines are being developed by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine and the State Department of Health Services; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby memorializes Congress and the President of the United States to: (1) lift restrictions on federal funding for research; (2) not impair the ability of researchers to conduct stem cell research applications that hold promise for developing therapies for treating and curing chronic diseases; (3) develop ethical guidelines for federally funded stem cell research; and (4) prohibit human cloning; and be it further

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States and the Assembly of the State of California hereby urge the Federal government to appropriate supplemental LIHEAP funds as part of any disaster relief legislation to assist those states which will be impacted by higher prices and shortages in the midst of a predicted harsh winter; and be it further

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States and the Assembly of the State of California hereby urge the Federal government to appropriate supplemental LIHEAP funds as part of any disaster relief legislation to assist those states which will be impacted by higher prices and shortages in the midst of a predicted harsh winter; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Clerk of the United States Senate and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives.