

It is with a sense of gratitude that I wish Mena Boulanger well as she prepares to retire from the Chicago Zoological Society and moves on to the next chapter in her life. Mena has created a lasting impact on the lives of thousands through her work and volunteerism in the Chicagoland region. Anyone that has visited either the Lincoln Park Zoo or Brookfield Zoo since 1980 has benefited from Mena's efforts and generosity.

I wish Mena Boulanger the best in her retirement and thank her for caring for the Midwest flora and fauna she embraced some 35 years ago.

HONORING DOMINIC AND BRENDA RANDAZZO

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor two constituents, Dominic and Brenda Randazzo, who have spent much of their lives giving back to their community.

Dominic and Brenda are a remarkable couple. Through 45 years of marriage, three children and seven grandchildren, they have maintained an unyielding spirit of giving back.

They were honored recently as the 2008 Servant Leaders of the Year by Provena St. Mary's Foundation in Kankakee, IL.

Provena St. Mary's Hospital has a special meaning for Dominic and Brenda. It is where they were both born.

For many years, both Dominic and Brenda have been among the hospital's most loyal supporters. Dominic has served as lead fundraiser for the hospital's annual Black Tie Gala for more than 8 years.

Last year, Dominic asked Brenda if she could lend some helpful suggestions for an auction benefiting the hospital. Brenda wound up chairing the auction and raised generous contributions.

Dominic grew up in Kankakee, IL and after he graduated from college, spent nearly 2 years in the United States Army, including time in Germany. After his years in the service, Dominic went to work for Armour Pharmaceutical in 1960 where he met his lovely wife, Brenda.

Two years ago, Dominic retired as the manager of community and government relations for Aventis Behring. This job combined Dominic's two favorite passions, community and legislation.

Brenda grew up in Chebanse, IL, with dreams of becoming a flight attendant or an interior designer. After working at Armour Pharmaceutical and meeting Dominic, Brenda joined Albanese Development, a company that designs, builds, and decorates hotels. Brenda's caring nature helped her excel in the hospitality industry, ultimately being named General Manager of Year in 2000 by the American Hotel and Lodging Administration.

Provena St. Mary's is only one of many community organizations to

which the Randazzos give so generously of their time and talents.

Dominic also spends countless hours with the United Way of Kankakee County. In 2004, he chaired that organization's Leadership Giving Campaign and broke its previous fundraising record. For his efforts, he was honored with the Ken Cote Award, better known as the Mr. United Way Award.

For more than 15 years, Dominic organized the Hemophilia Foundation of Illinois' annual Walk-and-Bike-a-thon.

Throughout her career in hotel management, Brenda, too, has always found time to help others. On Halloween, Brenda invited Easter Seals to bring children to trick-or-treat at the hotel. She also mentored low-income women—helping them obtain jobs at her hotels and access to public transportation. And she is a stalwart supporter of both the Arthritis Foundation and the Rotary Club in Bourbonnais, IL.

Their motivation for their service is simple and inspiring. Dominic and Brenda Randazzo both say that they have been blessed, and they want to share their blessings with others.

We are all enriched by the good works and fine example of caring citizens such as the Randazzas. I congratulate both Dominic and Brenda on their well-deserved honor and thank them for their many years of selfless giving to others.

GUNS AND CHILDREN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, often when we talk about combating gun violence, we discuss preventing criminal access to dangerous firearms. However, we must also focus our attention on the unsupervised access to firearms by our children and teenagers. While firearms in the hand of criminals pose a significant threat to society, many of the fatal firearm incidences in our country occur when children and teens discover loaded and unsecured firearms in their own homes. Over the years, suicides and accidental shootings have claimed the lives of thousands of young people. Sadly, many of these tragedies could have been prevented through commonsense gun legislation.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1.69 million children in the United States live in households with unlocked and loaded firearms. Tragically, firearms kill an average of nearly eight children and teenagers a day. What's more, the Children's Defense Fund estimates that at least four times this number are injured in nonfatal shootings.

Many parents believe that simply educating their children about the dangers firearms can pose is enough to keep them safe. Unfortunately, this is simply not the case. A study conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health, involving 201 families who have

guns in their homes, found that 39 percent of the parents who stated their children did not know the storage location of their firearms were contradicted by their children. In addition, 22 percent of the parents who believed their children had not handled their guns were contradicted by their children. The study concluded that although many parents had warned their children about gun safety, there was still a significant possibility that they were misinformed about their children's actions with their guns.

Common sense tells us that when guns are secured, the risk of children injuring or killing themselves or others with a gun is significantly reduced. By passing legislation that would require that all handguns sold by a dealer come with a child safety device, such as a lock, a lock box, or technology built into the gun itself, we could significantly decrease the possibility of a child misusing a firearm. I urge my colleagues to take up and pass such sensible gun safety legislation.

REMEMBERING SEAN KENNEDY

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today in remembrance of a young man whose life was cut short because of a tragic crime—a hate crime. I came to the Senate floor, 1 year ago today, to speak about a vicious attack that killed Sean Kennedy on May 16, 2007. He was just 20 years old. As I have done countless times in the past, I have again come to the floor to highlight the needless deaths of hate crimes' victims and the need to enact Federal hate crimes legislation.

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak to Sean Kennedy's mother Elke Kennedy. I had heard that Elke had read about her son in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and was grateful that someone had recognized his death and understood the need for hate crimes legislation. For every victim of a hate crime, many more family members and friends are impacted by the tragic loss. While I know the pain of losing a son, I can only imagine the grief Elke must have felt when someone took the life of her son simply for who he was. As a nation, what do we say to Elke and other family members who have lost a loved one to a hate crime? What salve do we have to offer them for their pain? I believe we could start by passing Federal hate crimes legislation to demonstrate our national commitment to ending bias-motivated crimes.

No parent should have to fear for their child's safety because of their sexual orientation and because our laws do not adequately protect them. It is the Government's first duty to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. Federal and State laws intended to protect individuals from heinous and violent crimes motivated by hate are