

James Church. And Rocky Hill has known no stronger advocate on behalf of seniors. Grace was a long-time member of Rocky Hill Seniors and served as their President from 1978 to 1980. She also served on the fundraising committee for the Senior Center. In fact, she was named Rocky Hill's "Senior of the Year" in 1983.

Grace's contributions to the community are all the more remarkable when you consider that she and her late husband Tony also raised eight children.

In addition to possessing a commitment to her community, she had a passion for politics, as evidenced by her run for mayor. Grace has been active in local Democratic politics for years, and I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with her. This Friday, the Rocky Hill Democratic Town Committee will bestow upon Grace their Chairman's Award in gratitude for her work for the party. This award is well deserved, and I congratulate Grace on this honor.

But, as I stated earlier, Grace Amodeo's devotion was not to a political party, it was to a community. And thanks to Grace and people like her, Rocky Hill, Connecticut remains a tightly knit community with its own identity. It is a place with a strong sense of history that people are proud to call home. I thank Grace for all that she has done for the people of Connecticut, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW SHEPARD AND HIS FAMILY

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a young man who was wrongly, viciously struck down in the prime of his life. Matthew Shepard was an innocent, kind, young man pursuing his education and enjoying the life of a college student. Tragically, he is now a reminder of what happens when we do not stand up to hate and bigotry.

On Monday night in Seattle and Spokane, Washington, hundreds of people from all walks of life came together to remember Matthew and to call for action to end hate crimes. Many people in Washington were outraged and shared in our nation's sorrow. I was touched by this response and join with so many others in expressing my own deep sense of hopelessness. I know that this was not just an isolated incident. Hate crimes are a real threat. We cannot be silent any longer.

A week ago today, I joined many of my Colleagues down at the White House in celebration of the signing of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act. I was proud to be there to call attention to the importance of this Act. I was proud that the legislation increased opportunities for young students and improved access to quality education for all students. I thought about how important it was for us to be focused on the needs of young Americans and their families striving to achieve a higher education.

I thought of the many college students and high school students I have met who would benefit from these opportunities. I thought about my own college age children and the opportunities they would have. I knew this was a big accomplishment.

Today, my thoughts are with another young college student who will never experience the opportunities and improvements we worked so hard to achieve. My thoughts have gone from improving opportunities to how to prevent the terrible heartache that Matthew Shepard's family and friends are now experiencing.

When I first heard of this horrible crime I immediately felt deep sympathy for Matthew's parents. How frightening it must have been for them to fly half way around the world to be with their child who was almost unrecognizable because of the violent attack he suffered. I can't imagine the pain they must be experiencing. There are simply no words that I could offer in comfort.

I then felt deep sorrow for the community and the University. To know that those who committed this violent and hateful crime are part of their community must be unbearable. This community will never be the same.

I now feel sorry for our nation. What we have lost? A young man with so much potential. What might Matthew Shepard have become? We know that he was interested in political science and very interested in this field of study. Could Matthew have become a U.S. Senator?

I think now that maybe Matthew can teach us all. We need to use this tragic and despicable crime to attack hate as we attack any other disease that kills. We must treat hate crimes as the deadly threat that they are and do more to prevent them. Hate is nothing more than a cancer that needs to be stopped.

S. 1529, Hate Crimes Prevent Act, offers us that opportunity. I am pleased to have joined with many of my Colleagues in cosponsoring this important legislation. The bill would expand the definition of a hate crime and improve prosecution of those who act out their hate with violence. No one beats a person to death and leaves them to die without being motivated by a deep sense of hate. This was no robbery. The motive was hate.

The immediate response of local law enforcement officials illustrates why we need to strengthen federal Hate Crimes laws and why the Federal Government must take a greater role in ending this violence.

I urge all of my Colleagues to think about the many Matthew Shepard, we have all met. Kind and hard working young adults. Let us act now to prevent any more senseless violence and deaths.

It is often said that from tragedy we can learn. Let us learn from this tragic event and make a commitment that we will act on Hate Crimes Prevention legislation. Let our actions serve as a

comfort to Matthew's parents and the hundreds of other parents who fear for their children.

There are so many tragedies that we cannot prevent. Another senseless, brutal attack like the one experienced by Matthew is a tragedy that we cannot prevent. We spend millions of dollars a year seeking cures for deadly diseases that strike the young and old. We simply cannot accept a disease that strikes without warning and takes the life of a precious vulnerable child. We need to treat hate the same. It cannot and will not be tolerated. ●

#### DESECRATION OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to express my disappointment that we will not have the opportunity to vote before the end of this session on passage of S.J. Res. 40, the Constitutional amendment to protect the flag of the United States.

Recently, the Majority Leader made a reasonable request for time for debate and then a vote on this amendment. However, the minority unfortunately would not agree. There is not time for extended debate on this issue in the last days of this session, but extended debate should not be necessary.

We have considered this issue in the Judiciary Committee and on the Senate Floor many times in the past. In fact, we have been debating this matter for almost a decade. I have fought to achieve Constitutional protection for the flag ever since the Supreme Court first legitimized flag burning in the case of *Texas v. Johnson* in 1989. We have held numerous hearings on this in the Judiciary Committee, most recently this past July.

In our history, the Congress has been very reluctant to amend the Constitution, and I agree with this approach. However, the Constitution provides for a method of amendment, and there are a few situations where an amendment is warranted. This is one of them.

The only real argument against this amendment is that it interferes with an absolute interpretation of the free speech clause of the First Amendment. However, restrictions on speech already exist through Constitutional interpretation. In fact, before the Supreme Court ruled on this issue in 1989, the Federal government and the states believed that flag burning was not Constitutionally-protected speech. The Federal government and almost every state had laws prohibiting flag desecration in 1989.

Mr. President, flag burning is intolerable. We have no obligation to permit this nonsense. Have we focused so much on the rights of the individual that we have forgotten the rights of the people?

During moments of despair and crisis in our history, our people have turned to the flag as a symbol of national unity. It represents our nation, our national ideals, and our proud heritage. It is much more than a piece of cloth.

One of the most vivid reminders of the importance of the flag is the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II some 53 years ago. On the fourth day of the battle, after our troops fought their way onto the beaches and over dangerous terrain, six men raised a United States flag on the highest ridge on Mount Suribachi. That was February 23, 1945, but the battle raged on until March 15, 1945. During those weeks of fighting, the flag served as an inspiration for our troops to keep pressing forward to victory.

Many times, American soldiers have put their lives on the line to defend what the flag represents. We have a duty to honor their sacrifices by giving the flag the Constitutional protection it deserves.

Since we will not be able to turn to this amendment in the closing days of this session, this issue will have to wait for the next Congress. We must not be deterred. I am firmly committed to fighting for this amendment until we are successful.

#### HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS ACT OF 1998

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I am pleased to report that, after years of waiting, families facing the tragedy of alcohol-related birth defects can finally expect a coordinated federal response to their needs. The Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect Prevention and Services Act, which has been included as part of S. 1754, the Health Professions Education Partnerships Act, will establish a national task force to address FAS and FAE, and a competitive grant program to fund prevention and intervention for affected children and their families.

The Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect Prevention and Services Act was introduced as S. 1875 earlier this year and, with today's Senate passage, will be cleared for the President's signature. It is a modest measure, but its implications—in terms of children saved, families saved, and dollars saved—are dramatic.

Alcohol-related birth defects, commonly known as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Fetal Alcohol Effect (FAE), wreak havoc on the lives of affected children and their families. The neurological damage done by fetal exposure to alcohol is irreversible and extensive, undercutting normal intellectual capacity and emotional development. A child with FAS or FAE may be unable to think clearly, to discern right from wrong, to form relationships, to act responsibly, to live independently.

The complicated and debilitating array of mental, physical, and behavioral problems associated with FAS and FAE can lead to continual use of medical, mental health, and social services—as well as difficulty learning basic skills and remaining in school, alarming rates of anti-social behavior and incarceration, and a heightened

risk of alcohol and drug abuse. FAS is the leading cause of mental retardation in the United States.

And it is 100 percent preventable.

FAS is completely preventable, yet, each year in the United States, some 12,000 children are born with FAS. The rate of FAE may be 3 times that. Researchers believe these conditions are often missed—or misdiagnosed—so the actual number of victims is almost certainly higher.

The incidence of FAS is nearly double that of Down's syndrome and almost 5 times that of spina bifida. In some Native American communities, one of every 100 children is diagnosed with FAS.

It has been more than 30 years since researchers identified a direct link between maternal consumption of alcohol and serious birth defects. Yet, the rate of alcohol use among pregnant women has not declined, nor has the rate of alcohol-related birth defects. In fact, both are increasing over time.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported a sixfold increase in the percentage of babies with FAS born between 1980 and 1995. This increase is consistent with the CDC's finding that rates of alcohol use during pregnancy, especially the rates of "frequent drinking," increased significantly between 1991 and 1995. These findings defy the Surgeon General's warning against drinking while pregnant as well as a strongly worded advisory issued in 1991 by the American Medical Association urging women to abstain from all alcohol during pregnancy. Clearly, we need to do more to discourage women from jeopardizing their children's future by drinking while pregnant.

In addition to the tragic consequences for thousands of children and their families, these disturbing trends have a staggering fiscal impact. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the lifetime private and public cost of treating an individual with FAS at almost \$1.4 million. The total cost in terms of health care and social services to treat all Americans with FAS was estimated at \$2.7 billion in 1995. This is an extraordinary and unnecessary expense.

We know FAS and FAE are not "minor" problems. They are prevalent; they are irreversible; they are devastating to the victim and his or her family; and they are a drain on societal resources. We know the word is not getting out—or maybe it's not getting through—that drinking alcohol during pregnancy is a tremendous and senseless risk. We know children with FAS and FAE and their families are not receiving appropriate services, and we are all paying the consequences.

Given what we know about FAS and FAE, our governmental and societal response to date are clearly inadequate. With this legislation, we are finally strengthening that response.

To the extent we can prevent FAS and FAE and help parents respond appropriately to the special needs of their

children, we can reduce institutionalizations, incarcerations and the repeated use of medical, mental health and social services that otherwise may be inevitable. It makes fiscal sense, but, far more importantly, it is what we need to do for the children and families who suffer its impact.

The legislation we are sending to the President will establish a national task force of parents, educators, researchers and representatives from relevant federal, state and local agencies. That task force will tell us how to raise awareness about FAS and FAE—how to prevent it and how to deliver the kinds of services that will enable children and adults with FAS and FAE, and their families, to cope with its devastating effects.

A national task force with membership from outside of, as well as within, the federal government is our best bet if we want to take a realistic look at this problem and address it. The true experts on these conditions are the parents and professionals who deal with the cause and effects of these conditions day in and day out. If we want to respond appropriately, parents, teachers, social workers, and researchers should have a place at the table. A national task force will also provide the opportunity for communities to share best practices, preventing states that are newer to this problem from having to "reinvent the wheel."

In conjunction with the task force efforts, the Secretary will establish a competitive grants program. This \$25 million program will provide the resources necessary to operationalize the task force recommendations by supporting education and public awareness, coordination between agencies that interact with affected individuals and their families, and applied research to identify effective prevention strategies and FAS/FAE services.

Mr. President, responding to the tragedy of alcohol-related birth defects is an urgent cause. I'd like to thank the many concerned parents, researchers, educators, advocacy organizations and federal agencies for their invaluable input on this legislation. I am confident this initiative will deliver profound benefits to the Nation, and I am thrilled to see us moving toward its enactment.

#### TUG AND BARGE SAFETY

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I rise today to thank the managers of the 1998 Coast Guard Authorization Act for their help in addressing an issue of great importance in Rhode Island: the safety of the tug and barge industry. The managers' amendment to the Coast Guard Authorization Act that passed the Senate on Monday included a provision that will strengthen the regulation of transportation of petroleum by barges in the waters of the Northeast.

I appreciate the cooperation of Commerce Committee Chairman MCCAIN,