

the accusing candidate's face and voice are nowhere to be found, and it is easy for folks to forget—conveniently to forget—who is doing the attacking.

I bring a special awareness to this issue because in the Senate special election with Senator SMITH, with whom I work on a great many issues and publish a bipartisan agenda at the start of each Congress, meeting me more than halfway as a colleague and friend in the Senate, he and I were in a campaign that was completely and totally out of hand, and many Oregonians simply did not want to vote. They got to the point where they said: The stench in this debate on both sides is so great, we are turned off the political process altogether.

I made the judgment in that race that I was going to take all the ads off the air about Senator SMITH. I said: This is not what I went into public service for—to attack somebody else. The reason I got involved with the Gray Panthers—and I was codirector of the senior citizens group for 7 years before I was elected to the House—is because I was interested in ideas, the best ideas. I did not care if they were Democratic or Republican ideas. Oregon on a bipartisan basis came up with breakthroughs in home health care and a variety of other ways to serve senior citizens.

I looked at what was happening in the Senate special election and said: This is completely contrary to everything I have stood for since my days with the Gray Panthers and contrary to all the reasons for which I went into public service. I went into public service to offer ideas and creative suggestions for making my State and my country a better place, and all of a sudden in that Senate special election, I was not recognizing what was being said in my name because all of it was just the opposite of positive. It was just attack, attack, attack.

My colleague, Senator SMITH, to his credit, shares my view that our campaigns got completely out of hand.

For about 3 weeks, the people of Oregon had balance in their hand. I made no reference to Senator SMITH at all. I took all of the ads off the air that mentioned his name and talked only about the kinds of initiatives I wanted to pursue, issues we talked about in the Senate today such as the bipartisan proposal Senator SNOWE and I have on prescription drugs.

I admit I come to this question of attack ads colored by a truly searing experience I had in 1996 and it is why Senator COLLINS and I felt so strongly about trying to make this change.

I think owning up to statements about what a candidate says about their opponent is going to make a difference. I think it is going to cause a candidate to think twice before they go forward with these negative blitzes on their opponents. I am going to be frank. That is what I wanted to see American politics be all about after 1996. That is why I have tried to keep it

positive and to focus on areas where in the public policy arena people can be helped, people can be empowered, and they can make choices that make a difference for their lives.

Certainly the debate on campaign finance reform has been contentious, but I think we can all agree that reasonable ideas can help clean up this process, reasonable ideas can help drain the swamp that has become the way political campaigns are financed and run in much of this country.

I believe the stand-by-your-ad proposal, which holds candidates accountable, and which I was honored to have a chance to work with Senator COLLINS of Maine, is going to help clean up campaigns. It is going to help make candidates more accountable and make the politics and political discourse in this country more positive and more open.

I yield the floor.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be excused from presence in the Senate starting at 5:30 tomorrow evening until the Senate reconvenes after the Easter recess.

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

46TH ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIA INDEPENDENCE

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the country of Tunisia, which is celebrating the 46th anniversary of its independence from France.

I appreciate Tunisia's economic achievements. Tunisia's Gross Domestic Product has increased an average of 5.5 percent in the past 4 years, and inflation is slowing. The government has worked to increase privatization, and its prudent approach toward debt is commendable. The United States in 2000 exported approximately \$350 million in goods to Tunisia, and I believe our diplomatic ties will strengthen as our trading activities increase. Stability in the Middle East is of paramount importance to both our countries, and I thank Tunisia for its past efforts to work toward peace.

Tunisia's policies toward women's rights and non-Muslims' religious freedoms are exemplary in the Arab world, and I hope the nation's leaders will continue to work toward promoting greater political freedom and respect for human rights throughout the region.

More than 200 years ago, the United States and Tunisia signed a Treaty of Peace and Friendship, and I look forward to many more years of cooperation between our nations.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the forty-sixth anniversary of Tunisian Independence from France.

The Republic of Tunisia is a great ally of the United States. Since her independence, Tunisia has become a

model for economic development. The Tunisian economy has been opened up to the outside world, and in 1995, Tunisia became the first country south of the Mediterranean to sign a free-trade agreement with the European Union.

Tunisian President Ben Ali has been instrumental in implementing a stable and effective constitutional government, protecting democracy and increasing political participation by all citizens. The Republic of Tunisia also has a commendable record on human rights, protecting all citizens. In addition, Tunisia has actively contributed to the search for a lasting peace in the Middle East, offering unwavering support to the Middle East peace process.

While Tunisia has become a great contributor to the world both economically and culturally, as Americans, we must also remember the tremendous role Tunisia played during World War II as part of the Allied Force and the support Tunisia offered the United States during the Cold War. For this, we will always be grateful.

The United States was the first country to recognize Tunisia's independence in 1956, and it is only fitting that we take the time to reflect on Tunisia's contributions to the world. I congratulate the Republic of Tunisia and its citizens, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE INTER-STATE TRANSPORTATION AND LOCAL AUTHORITY ACT OF 2002

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, yesterday I joined as an original cosponsor of legislation introduced by my Midwestern colleague, the Senator from Ohio, Mr. VOINOVICH. This legislation is similar to legislation introduced by the Senator from Ohio and the Senator from Indiana, Mr. BAYH, in the previous Congress. I am pleased to be working with the Senator from Ohio on this very important issue. I know that he, as a former Governor, is intimately aware of the concerns that the growing trash trade poses for the States that we represent.

We in the Midwest, especially those of us fortunate enough to be from the Great Lakes States, enjoy a very high quality of life, beautiful scenery, small, neighborly towns, and spectacular natural resources. We hold it as a particular point of pride that we, in many instances, have the luxury of avoiding many environmental problems, and we have structured our State and local governments in Wisconsin to try to be sure that we continue to avoid them. We in Wisconsin, however, are unable to protect our communities, which have done a good regulatory job, from having to deal with the solid waste mess created by our neighboring communities in other States. Instead, my State has been forced to accept other States' municipal solid waste in ever increasing amounts.

We need to enact legislation to give back to States the power to be able to

control the flow of waste into State-licensed landfills from out-of-State sources. This legislation would give states the tools to do just that. It gives States the power to freeze solid waste imports at the 1993 levels, and to charge a \$3 per ton fee on out-of-State trash. States that did not accept out-of-State waste in 1993 would be presumed to prohibit receipt of out-of-State waste until the affected unit of local government approves it. Facilities that already have a host community agreement or permit that accepts out-of-State waste would remain exempt from the ban. States would also be allowed to set a statewide percentage limit on the amount of waste that new or expanding facilities could accept. The limit cannot be lower than 20 percent. Finally, States, under this bill, are also given the ability to deny the creation of either new facilities or the expansion of existing in-State facilities, if it is determined that there is no in-State need for the new capacity.

My home State has tried to address this issue repeatedly on its own, without success. On January 25, 1999, a Federal appeals court struck down a 1997 Wisconsin law that prohibits landfills from accepting out-of-State waste from communities that don't recycle in compliance with Wisconsin's law. Wisconsin's law bans 15 different recyclables from State landfills. Under the law, communities using Wisconsin landfills must have a recycling program similar to those required of Wisconsin communities under Wisconsin law, regardless of the law in their home State. About 27 Illinois towns rely on southern Wisconsin landfills. Since the law took effect, waste haulers serving those communities have had to find alternative landfills for their clients, incurring higher transportation costs in the process. Illinois-based Waste Management Inc. and the 1,300-member National Solid Waste Management Association were the entities that challenged Wisconsin's law.

By recycling, Wisconsin residents have reduced the amount of municipal waste heading to landfills. Since the State's previous out-of-State waste law was struck down by the appeals court in 1995, the amount of non-Wisconsin waste in Wisconsin landfills has tripled. When the law was in effect, 7.7 percent of the municipal waste in Wisconsin came from out of State. That has risen to more than 22.9 percent since the law was struck down. Though this legislation will not afford Wisconsin the ability to block garbage containing recyclables from our landfills, it will at least give my State the ability to address the overall volume of waste entering our State.

In 1995, I supported flow control legislation sponsored by the Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. SMITH, and drawn substantially from the work of the former Senator from Indiana, Mr. Coats. I have been very concerned that the Senate, which passed that bill by a significant majority vote of 94-6, has

not taken up legislation to address this issue since that time. The issue of interstate waste control affects my home State and more than 20 other States. For years, States have been faced with the challenge of ensuring safe, responsible management of out-of-State waste, and the need for State control is even more acute today than in was in 1995. Congress is the only body that can give the States the relief that they need from being overwhelmed by a tidal wave of trash.

We need to take prompt action on this matter, and this legislation is a good first step. I urge my colleagues to consider lending this bill their support.

WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, as terrorists attacked our shores and bombarded our sense of security on September 11, 2001, Americans, and indeed freedom-loving people everywhere, wondered aloud how the United States would respond. They didn't have to wait long for an answer. Americans rose to the occasion by donating blood, by volunteering for relief efforts, and by enlisting in America's armed forces. But such is the American way. When duty calls, Americans are ready to answer.

With the military action in Afghanistan and the many theaters of the war on terror serving as a backdrop, the movie, "We Were Soldiers," chronicles one of the first major battles of the Vietnam War, and conveys the leadership and heroism of the units that served in the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley. Lt. Colonel Harold Moore led a battalion of First Cavalry soldiers into battle, displaying a sense of leadership that fostered comradery but at the same time illustrated the great stakes for which they were fighting. During my own service in Vietnam as a member of the Army's First Cavalry, I felt the same bond with the men around me, and I am pleased that this film was able to capture that bond so well.

The Vietnam War, unlike any other conflict beyond America's borders, was a war that polarized public opinion. It was a struggle that took place far from home that, to many people, had little impact on day-to-day life in the United States. But this movie succeeds in putting human faces on the countless lives lost, as well as on the veterans who returned home to a changed country. Although that is the context in which Ia Drang occurred, the movie does a remarkable job not focusing on politics. Rather it is about the love and deep bond between men in battle, fighting for their lives. Lt. Colonel Moore summed up his dedication to his men perfectly when he told them that although they may not all make it back alive, he could guarantee they'd all make it back home.

The story of the Battle of Ia Drang is one of grit and determination. But it is also one of staggering loss. In November of 1965, some 450 men, under the

command of Lt. Colonel Moore, were dropped into a small clearing in the Ia Drang Valley. They were immediately surrounded by more than 2,000 Northern Vietnamese soldiers, and confronted with the type of conflict that would mark the war in Vietnam for years to come. Three-hundred-five of those 450 men never made it home; their names are inscribed on the third panel to the right of the apex, Panel 3-East, of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, and in the thoughts of all Americans, men and women for whom they sacrificed their lives. As President John F. Kennedy said, "A man does what he must—in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures—and that is the basis of all human morality." The men of Ia Drang certainly paid the ultimate price in protecting our freedom, and this movie ensures that their story will not fade with time. But "We Were Soldiers" does more than simply tell a story from the history books. It reminds us all that it is our mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, friends and neighbors who serve in America's armed forces. The men and women who protect our values every day are deserving of their places in our thoughts and prayers, and we are forever grateful.

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 in March of last year. 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.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred June 26, 1992 in St. George, NY. Two men yelling anti-gay slurs held a gay man and beat him. One of the assailants, Seth Melendez, 21, of New Brighton, was charged in connection with the incident.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today in observance of the 181st anniversary of Greece's independence and to pay tribute to the heroic Greek patriots who, against tremendous odds, ended nearly 4 centuries of oppressive foreign domination of their homeland. This arduous struggle continued for eight years, until 1829, when independence was secured and the first steps were taken toward the establishment of the modern Greek state. Just as the