

her sense of human and laughter. She continues to act as a strong and effective advocate for Taiwan's physically challenged citizens. Throughout all her trials, she has remained solid in her support for her family and the people of Taiwan. This strength of character has contributed much to the First Lady's greatness.

First Lady Chen Wu is here today to bring a message from her husband and the people of Taiwan. Her message is one of cooperation and support from the Taiwanese in our joint antiterrorism campaign. Already, with support of Madame Chen We Sue-jen, Taiwan has demonstrated charity and humanitarian assistance to the victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. As mentioned in the House Resolution, the Government and people of Taiwan have consistently provided tremendous support and generous contributions to the United States after those attacks.

Madame Chen We Sue-jen is a woman of great character and strength. I wish to offer my warmest welcome to her as she visits the Capitol. I extend my gratitude to her for all the important work she has done and I wish her well in her pursuits of justice and democracy.

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#### 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 January 17, 2001 in Helena, MT. A gay college student was beaten unconscious in his dorm room. The attacker struck the student in the head with a bottle, beat him while he was unconscious, and wrote "Die Fag" on his body with an ink marker. The victim withdrew from school two weeks after the attack.

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.

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#### CRANE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2002

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for S. 2847, which I recently joined as a cosponsor.

Cranes, the tallest flying birds on Earth and among the most graceful, inhabit wide expanses of wetlands and grasslands and exert a charismatic appeal reflected in many cultures.

Our Whooping Crane, the rarest of the world's cranes, is shared with Can-

ada and has survived only because of close cooperation between the United States and Canada. If the species is to survive, however, those magnificent birds need more intensive conservation efforts. This bill would provide such help, all up and down the Mississippi River Flyway, while also applying our conservation techniques on behalf of nine more endangered species of cranes in Africa and Asia.

This bill would support organizations with expertise in crane conservation by funding projects in areas such as habitat protection and restoration, research and monitoring of crane populations, community participation and outreach, and reintroduction of cranes to the wild. The projects will be asked to promote long-term conservation by eliciting matching funds from government agencies, local communities, NGOs or others in the private sector.

Whether in Louisiana, elsewhere in the United States, or overseas, protecting cranes' ecosystems benefits thousands of other animal and plant species at the interface between aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

Louisiana is important to cranes because of the spectacular wetlands along our southwest coast. Sandhill cranes, which had disappeared from the state, already have returned as a wintering species. In a natural area near New Orleans, the Audubon Nature Institute has established a Species Survival Center which is rearing the endangered Mississippi subspecies of the sandhill crane, for release in the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge near Biloxi. That Center also recently received eight Whooping Cranes and plans to expand to ten breeding pairs as the core of a plan to restore Whooping Cranes to Louisiana's coast.

Funding would flow through a new "Crane Conservation Fund" in Interior's Multinational Species Conservation Fund. In covering cranes, this bill would for the first time provide such protection for a species of bird.

I ask other Senators to join me in supporting the Crane Conservation Act of 2002.

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#### FALUN GONG

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the determination and perseverance of the Falun Gong, a peaceful movement seeking the basic freedoms to think as they wish and believe as they choose that we as Americans hold so dear.

Three principles of Truth, Compassion, and Tolerance lie at the core of Falun Gong. Those who practice Falun Gong do so to become better, healthier people through living by these principles.

Despite Falun Gong's peaceful principles and teachings, violations of human rights have occurred in China against Falun Gong practitioners. Human rights is an important goal as recognized by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

which sets forth certain basic rights such as the right to life, to liberty, and to the freedom of expression. The Senate has ratified a series of international treaties such as International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, 1976, and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1987. The Senate's approval of these and other treaties highlights the progress made towards human rights.

In direct response to the recent human rights violations against Falun Gong practitioners, the Senate, on November 19, 1999, unanimously approved Senate Resolution 217. This resolution, "recognizing the plight of many Chinese citizens," calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to: 1. release all prisoners of conscience and put an immediate end to the harassment, detention, physical abuse, and imprisonment of Chinese citizens exercising their legitimate rights to free belief, expression, and association; and 2. demonstrate its willingness to abide by internationally accepted norms of freedom of belief, expression, and association by repealing or amending laws and decrees that restrict those freedoms and proceeding promptly to ratify and implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

We must embrace the opportunity to continue to support the principles of Falun Gong to realize freedom and I wish them well in their quest for freedom and justice.

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#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

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##### NEW JERSEY TASK FORCE ONE

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of the Senate the outstanding efforts and contributions of the New Jersey Task Force One Urban Search and Rescue Team.

On September 11, 2001 at approximately 9:00 a.m. New Jersey Task Force One was activated and deployed to the World Trade Center Attack. Requested by New York City's Office of Emergency Management, New Jersey Task Force One had an advance team in New York City by 11:15 a.m. The team's entire equipment cache, along with 140 members was set up at the Jacob Javits Center by 2:00 p.m. that same day. They deployed search assets to search for survivors during the afternoon and evening of the 11th and for the next 10 days, they worked continuously as part of the urban search and rescue effort.

In a short period of time, New Jersey Task Force One became an integral part of the rescue efforts. The team was integrated into the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue System and was included in the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Action Planning. The well-equipped New Jersey Task Force One had the ability to lend critical equipment to some of the responding FEMA