

Gettys was a great teaser, and he often would catch people by surprise by asking if they enjoyed the casserole he sent. When told that, no, they hadn't gotten a casserole, Gettys would respond, "Well, I left it on the porch. The dogs must have gotten it."

The former congressman cultivated stories about being tightfisted, but in reality, he was a gentle, caring person, Hardin said.

"He had the best sense of humor," Hardin said. "I don't know anyone who had a better one."

Another former Rock Hill Mayor, Betty Jo Rhea, called Gettys, "One of my favorite people."

Gettys' reputation as the hometown guy turned legislator is deep in the memories of Rock Hill residents. People knew Gettys had many jobs before he ran for Congress and that he came home when he was finished his work in Washington.

"Tom was my husband Jimmy's principal when he was at Central School on Black Street in the early 30s," Rhea said.

Gettys is survived by daughters Julia and Sara and his wife of 55 years, Mary Phillips Gettys. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

His sister Sara, who still lives in Rock Hill, said the Tom Gettys people knew from public life was the same guy the family loved. Even after 10 years in Congress, Tom Gettys was a Rock Hill boy deep in his bones.

"He was a great person who looked after all of us," Sara Gettys said. "The man who went to Washington was the same man when he came home."

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Lincoln Park, MI, on September 19, 2001. Mr. Ali Almansoop, a 45-year-old U.S. citizen originally from Yemen, was shot to death by a man who confessed the attack was in retaliation for the September 11 tragedy. The attacker broke into the apartment where Mr. Almansoop was asleep, dragged him out of bed, and shot him in the back as he attempted to flee. The Department of Justice investigated the slaying as a hate crime murder.

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 is 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.

ARMED FORCES DAY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on May 17, Armed Forces Day, I drove down to Madisonville, TN to participate in the raising of the largest American flag in our State. The people of

Madisonville and Monroe County had been working on this for months.

The community joined together to make the Veterans Flag Memorial something to be proud of. Along with the impressive flag, a brick wall was erected.

Businesses donated bricks, mortar, concrete and a variety of services from architectural to brick masonry. Citizens donated approximately \$70,000 to the project, including contributions and brick sales. The brick sales were reserved for veterans and active duty military. The memorial has been a labor of love for the community. The dedication ceremony to celebrate this hard work was an important event.

As I drove up to Haven Hill Memorial Gardens, where the ceremony was to be held, it started to rain; then it poured. Thunderstorms arrived, and lightning began to dance in the sky. Not many of us wanted to get too close to the 150 foot flagpole.

But through it all, the ceremony went forward. There must have been 500 people who sat there in the rain, absolutely drenched. And then, the sun came out as the program began.

The most impressive moment came with the raising of the flag. Twenty men marched forward carrying the flag. It was soaking wet and very heavy. This is what the organizer of the event, City Alderman Irad Lee, wrote to me:

I was told by the commander of the Tennessee State Guard that had we waited another five minutes, the flag would have been too heavy for their twenty men to carry. I am unsure how much a saturated 1,800 square foot flag weighs, yet one young man named Dwight Taylor of 312 Atkins Road in Madisonville, a city maintenance crew worker, auxiliary policeman and patriot, endured while cranking the flag to the top of flagpole.

I watched Dwight Taylor crank that flag to the top of the pole. I was astonished to see one man do that. It was a tribute to his patriotism and strength. It seemed at the time an impossible feat.

But so does the history of this country that our flag represents.

When Americans want to see the grandest flag in Tennessee, they will travel to Madisonville. And it is appropriate that they do so.

Congressman JIMMY DUNCAN told the crowd that Monroe County sent more volunteers to Desert Storm in the Gulf War for its population size than any other county in America. This is yet another example in our history of Tennessee living up to its nickname, "The Volunteer State."

I felt privileged to be a part of the Armed Forces Day event, and I wanted the nation to know about the patriotic citizens of Madisonville and Monroe County, TN.

HEALTH CARE HERO

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, 5 years ago, the State of Oregon witnessed one of the greatest tragedies in its 150 year

history—a senseless school shooting at Thurston High School in Springfield. The shock waves from that awful event still reverberate in our State and in our schools. But as so often happens in the face of great evil, good people stand together in grief to create hope for a better future.

In the case of the Thurston shooting, that beacon of hope is the Ribbon of Promise campaign. Five years after the shooting, the campaign is continuing its work to prevent school violence. Because of the impact the campaign has made and the lives it has saved, I rise today to recognize this program and its volunteers as a Health Care Hero for Oregon.

The Ribbon of Promise National Campaign to Prevent School Violence was founded on May 22, 1998, the day after the Thurston shooting. Thurston was one of several school attacks occurring across the Nation, from Pearl, MS, to Jonesboro, AR. While still in the throes of grief, the Springfield community decided enough was enough and began the work of preventing future attacks.

Overnight, the Springfield area bloomed with miles of blue plastic ribbons decorating cars, mailboxes, lampposts, trees and lapels, signaling the community's support for the victims and their families. The ribbons promised to end the specter of school violence, a promise repeated at candlelight vigils, community gatherings, and funerals.

But the promise didn't end when the media attention subsided. The ribbons were woven together into a grassroots organization dedicated to making a national impact on the problem of school violence. The resulting campaign, the Ribbon of Promise, identified its mission as bringing communities together with schools, law enforcement, and the juvenile justice system to prevent school violence. Today, the organization continues to fill its role by acting as resource for communication, education, and action against future attacks.

Since the campaign's inception, the ribbons have appeared in many important places. President Clinton wore one when he traveled to Eugene for a Thurston memorial service. NASA crewmember Wendy Lawrence took the ribbon on the shuttle Discovery in 1998. Since that time, over 250,000 lapel ribbons have been distributed across the world.

Results of the campaign have been tremendous. The group's web site has become a primary resource for violence prevention information. Springfield High School's DECA class developed a video called By Kids 4 Kids, launching the student arm of the campaign. This important program, also known as BK4K is teaching students to speak out when they hear threats of violence. This information, spread from student to student, is often the only way schools, parents, and law enforcement have the opportunity to prevent violent attacks. The BK4K campaign is