

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT  
OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I speak today about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement 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 Newark, CA. On October 3, 2002, several men became enraged after learning that a young woman was actually a 17-year-old boy in their party. The men punched Eddie "Gwen" Araujo, dragged him into the garage and strangled him with a piece of rope. Eddie's body was then wrapped in a sheet and buried in a shallow grave near Placerville, about 150 miles from his family's home in Newark.

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.

AUNG SAN SUU KYI'S HUNGER  
STRIKE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, this weekend we heard extremely troubling news from the State Department. Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the democratically elected National League for Democracy and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, is on a hunger strike to protest her detention by the military government in Burma.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been held in an unknown location without the ability to communicate with the outside world since May 30, 2003. Many of us in Congress have demanded her release. Sadly, her detention is simply the latest installment in the country's 40-year history of suffering and oppression. I have consistently criticized the government for its political repression and human rights violations. Reports of rape, forced labor, human trafficking, suppression of civil liberties, and torture of political dissidents have caused me and my constituents great concern. I supported the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, which imposes sanctions on the Burmese military junta, strengthens Burma's democratic forces and supports and recognizes the National League for Democracy as the legitimate representative of the Burmese people. I encourage other countries to join the United States in adopting similar measures toward Burma.

The Burmese Government must release Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners from detention. I also urge our administration, the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, and the inter-

national community to continue to exert pressure on the Burmese junta to respect human rights and political freedoms. I ask President Bush to make Burma a high priority as he travels to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Bangkok in early October. As recommended by the Council on Foreign Relations, we should press for a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Aung San Suu Kyi's detention, the junta's human rights violations and their refusal to engage in dialogue with the democratic opposition. We should also encourage the Security Council to hold an emergency session on Burma to discuss implementing targeted sanctions on the regime.

Aung San Suu Kyi's hunger strike adds urgency to the dire predicament of the Burmese people. The Burmese military junta must realize that their egregious offences against their own population can no longer stand.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk briefly about organic agriculture and to recognize the many thousands of organic farmers from around the Nation who have helped transform this once nascent industry into a thriving and innovative sector of our economy. Today, in particular, I extend my greetings to the many organic producers and retailers who have gathered in Washington, D.C. this week to participate in the annual organic conference.

Organic agriculture has come a long way over the past 20 years largely because of the determination and hard work of our Nation's many organic producers. To put this issue in perspective, the amount of organic cropland in the United States has more than doubled in the 1990s, and the annual growth rate of the organic industry in the United States has been greater than 20 percent for the past decade. Sales of organic food and beverages accounted for over \$9 billion in 2002 and are expected to exceed \$20 billion by 2005. The increase in organic production and sales is a reflection of the profitability and high consumer demand for organic food.

While the organic industry would not be where it is today without the efforts of its growers and retailers, Congress has an integral role in ensuring that consumers have confidence in the products they are buying. Many of my colleagues remember that the U.S. Department of Agriculture helped to usher in a new era for the organic industry with the implementation last November of the first ever national organic standards. With these new standards, farmers in my home State of Maine were able to sell their organic products to retailers in other States with confidence that the organic label will be recognized by consumers in those States. Consumers now know that when they buy an organically la-

beled product, it was produced in a healthy and environmentally friendly manner.

From what I heard from farmers in my State over the August recess, I can say that the organic rule has been a tremendous benefit to growers both small and large. In Maine, organic agriculture accounts for an important part of the State's \$673 million agriculture-related sales. Several blueberry growers in Downeast Maine have recognized the profitability of organic agriculture and have begun to add organic production. Consumer interest in organic milk has led many dairy farmers to switch to organic milk. Six years ago, only one dairy farmer in Maine produced organic milk—now, such milk accounts for over 10 percent of the State's entire dairy production. These are but a few examples of the success of organic agriculture from my State, demonstrating the enormous potential for growth in the organic sector.

Here in Congress, we must continue to help the organic agriculture sector grow. The organic community celebrated the implementation of the national organic rule; however, the continuing success of this rule will depend on Congress' commitment to fund the USDA's National Organic Program. The modest increase for the National Organic Program in the Senate Fiscal Year 2004 Agriculture appropriations bill is a step in the right direction. Likewise, investments in organic research and development through the Organic Production and Marketing Data Collection will help the organic industry move forward by leaps and bounds.

With organic producers visiting from nearly all 50 States, I hope many of my colleagues will have an opportunity to hear from an organic farmer, rancher, or retailer in their home State. Again, I extend my welcome to all those involved in the national organic conference.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
INTERIOR'S INDIAN CRAFT SHOP

• Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam President, as a Native American, artist and craftsman, it is an honor for me to speak today in recognition of the 65th anniversary of the Indian Arts and Crafts Shop at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Established with the help of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, the Crafts Room first opened its doors in 1938 and has served as an outlet for Native American artists to market their excellent products to the world.

With the help of the Indian Crafts Shop, today's market for Indian-made goods is roughly \$1 billion, with thousands of Native American artists creating authentic arts and crafts conveying the beauty of the Native culture to the peoples of the world.

Native art and crafts not only employs thousands of Indian country's best and most prolific artists, but educates non-Native people about the ways and culture of the Native American population.

Throughout its history, the Indian Crafts Shop has showcased Native art that represents generations of Native people, their culture and heritage from every region of the United States. The shop assists in efforts to protect Indian cultural heritage and strives to ensure that Native-made goods are recognized for their artistic tradition and fine craftsmanship.

The Indian Craft Shop has 65 successful years behind it, and I look forward to its continuing success in supporting Native artists and people nationwide.●

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOE GARTON

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Joe Garton, a champion of the arts in the State of Wisconsin, and a dear friend who passed away August 2.

Joseph Walter Garton was born August 17, 1946, in Sheboygan, WI. After attending Amherst College in Massachusetts, serving as a VISTA volunteer in the Harlem section of New York City, receiving his doctorate from NYU in film studies, and marrying his beloved wife, Dierdre, Joe returned to Wisconsin to teach film history.

In 1996, Joe demonstrated his love for the arts by rescuing and restoring Ten Chimneys, the one-time summer home of Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne. Thanks to Joe's efforts, Ten Chimneys is now a national center for theater studies and a tourist destination for fans and artists from all over the world.

A husband, father, son, and brother—and soon to be grandfather—Joe Garton was an extraordinary man and I am lucky to have called him a good friend. In addition to restoring Ten Chimneys, Joe also transformed an 1856 farmhouse into Quigley Grove, a popular restaurant in Fitchburg, WI. Our community and our State have been greatly enriched by his work.

His love for the arts and architecture was only surpassed by his love for and dedication to his family. Their kindness to me over the past 20 years means a great deal to me personally. Both through his work and through his family, Joe leaves behind a tremendous legacy.

Joe was my friend and someone who was always there for me over the years. I am forever indebted to him. Mary and I will always remember Joe and have a particularly fond recollection of an incredible evening at Ten Chimneys several years ago. At a very challenging time in my career, Joe and Dierdre welcomed us with tremendous hospitality and Mary and I remain extremely grateful.

He was taken from us too soon, and we will always treasure his memory

and his dedication to his family and friends. Joe, Dierdre and their entire family are in our thoughts and prayers.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFELONG SERVICE OF MARTIN BEGIEEN

● Mr. BOND. Madam President, I join with friends and family in recognizing the efforts and dedication of Mr. Martin Begien, an outstanding American, and a true patriot to American democracy on what will be his 75th birthday, November 15. Martin, since joining the Republican Party, has helped bring quality candidates to run for political office and in turn continues to participate in the American political process. Martin's successful political participation is indicative of his career as a whole.

Martin Begien's impressive educational career began at the exclusive Andover Academy in Andover, MA, and Yale University in New Haven, CT, and continued with his service in the U.S. Army. Martin went on to maintain an illustrious professional career that ultimately led to his serving as senior partner at David L. Babson and Company, Inc., one of the oldest investment counseling firms in the United States.

Martin has always combined exceptional professional and organizational skills, untiring initiative, and unlimited compassion to accomplish both major, and simply thoughtful, tasks for the Republican Party. Martin has always generously given of himself a genuine love and concern of others without hesitation or expectation of reward. Martin's endearing attitude and hard work earned him the respect and admiration of Mitt Romney, Governor of the State of Massachusetts.

I stand with Martin's wife Kate, his friends and family, and all those whose lives are richer for having known Martin Begien to commemorate and recognize his 75th birthday on the 15th day of November, 2003.●

#### HONORING THE IDAHO MINING ASSOCIATION ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I offer congratulations to the Idaho Mining Association on its 100th anniversary. The mining industry has long been an economic force in Idaho, which is nicknamed the Gem State, and the association has been a strong advocate for that industry.

The association held its first meeting in the summer of 1903, and was first known as the Idaho Prospectors and Operators. The occasion of the meeting was an urgent invitation from the Governor of Missouri to Idaho Governor Frank R. Gooding that Idaho furnish a display of mineral products for the 1904 International Exposition in St. Louis. Ten years later, this group changed its name to the Idaho Mining Association and has operated continuously since.

Early records of the group clearly state its original purpose:

It is imperative that there be a better understanding on the part of the people generally, and of those who enact and administer our laws particularly; that the economy of our nation, the happiness and welfare of our people, the safety of the Republic itself depend upon a healthy mineral industry.

The importance of minerals in our lives and to our economy has not diminished over the past century. The price and availability of raw materials are critically important to our manufacturing industries. The computer, telecommunication and electronic industries that represent an ever-growing share of our economic output, and dominate our daily lives, wouldn't be possible without the vast array of minerals produced in this country. We even rely on minerals to produce the new equipment that enhances the productivity of the nation's workers. It remains essential that we, as "those who enact and administer our laws," continue to recognize the importance of our domestic mining industry.

Once again, my congratulations to the Idaho Mining Association and its members as they mark this important milestone. I send my very best wishes for its continued success in serving the best interests of the State of Idaho and the nation.●

#### NATIONAL ASSISTED LIVING WEEK

● Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, this year, National Assisted Living Week begins September 7 and continues through September 13. Since 1995, the National Center for Assisted Living has sponsored National Assisted Living Week to emphasize the importance of the options assisted living provides seniors and persons with disabilities.

Assisted living is a long-term care alternative for seniors who need more assistance than is available in general retirement communities but do not require the heavy medical and nursing care provided by nursing homes.

This year's theme for National Assisted Living Week is "Sharing Life's Treasures" which highlights the need for all of us, no matter what our age, to take time to appreciate the treasures we find along life's pathway.

My State, Oregon, helped to pioneer the assisted-living concept because it could help promote security, dignity, and independence for seniors. While assisted living varies from State to State, it remains a consumer-oriented option for long-term care needs, and highlights the need to support options for long-term care as our population ages.●

#### TRIBUTE TO PAUL WALLACE-BRODEUR

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Paul Wallace-Brodeur, an outstanding Vermonter and a national leader in the area of health care reform. As he prepares to retire from his position as Director of the Office of Vermont Health