

that friendship evolved into love, and they married in March of 1996. This March they will celebrate their eighth anniversary.

Lee and Bobbi plan to spend a few well-deserved months in Mexico, relaxing and enjoying the life they have established together. Of course, they will spend a lot of time with their seven children and six grandchildren. And Lee will now have more time to ride his Harley, possibly in the upcoming Street Vibrations festival, an annual celebration for motorcycle enthusiasts in Sparks and nearby Reno.

As they look forward to retirement, Lee and Bobbi can also look back on a job well done, a life well lived, and the important role they played in Sparks, NV.

So today, on behalf of all Nevadans, I offer congratulations and gratitude to Lee and Bobbi Leighton.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to CPT Chris Soelzer, a resident of Sturgis, SD who died on December 24, 2003, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Captain Soelzer was a member of the Headquarters Company of the 5th Engineer Battalion, which was based out of Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He was among three soldiers killed when a roadside bomb hit a military convoy near Samarra.

Answering America's call to the military, Captain Soelzer wasn't sure he was going to make a career out of the Army. However, according to his brother, "he was a soldier, that is what he lived for." A born soldier, he had attended Kemper Military School and College after graduating from Sturgis High School. A member of the school band, chorus group, and the track team, friends remember him as a quiet and gentle person. Captain Soelzer's former principal recalls that "he was a real gentleman, a real nice kid who was involved in a lot of things." Dave Mueller, a friend from high school remembers Captain Soelzer as a bright individual and remarked that "Academics was his big thing. I think he was close to straight A's."

Captain Soelzer served our country and, as a hero, died fighting for it. He served as a model example of the loyalty and dedication in the preservation of freedom. The thoughts and prayers of my family as well as the rest of the country's are with his family during this time of mourning. Our thoughts continue to be with all those families with children, spouses, and loved ones serving overseas.

Captain Soelzer led a full life, committed to his family, his Nation, and his community. It was his incredible dedication to helping others that will serve as his greatest legacy. Our Nation is a far better place because of Captain Soelzer's contributions, and, while his family, friends, and Nation will miss him very much, the best way

to honor his life is to emulate his commitment to service and community. In the words of Dave Mueller, "He was also a person who you'd barely have to know him and he would do everything for you."

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of Captain Soelzer. I know that he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

SERGEANT DENNIS A. CORRAL

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Dennis A. Corral, a fellow Nebraskan and Sergeant in the U.S. Army. Sergeant Corral was killed on January 1 in Baghdad, Iraq. He was 33 years old.

Sergeant Corral served as a supply sergeant in Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, based in Fort Riley, KS.

A resident of Kearney, NE, Sergeant Corral was a dedicated soldier who was committed to his family and country. Sergeant Corral volunteered to deploy early so that another soldier with a wife and children could spend more time at home, his mother, Yolanda, said. She described her son as always willing to "step forward if they need help."

In addition to his mother, Sergeant Corral is survived by his father, Victor, and brothers, Peter, Christopher, and Rodney. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of them at this difficult time.

Sergeant Corral and thousands of brave American service men and women confront danger every day in Iraq and their tremendous sacrifices must never be taken for granted or forgotten. For his service, bravery, and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring Sergeant Dennis Corral.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY, 2004

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, throughout California and across America, millions of people gathered yesterday to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth. Each year, thanks to a 1983 Federal law that I was proud to vote for, we take the third Monday of January to commemorate Dr. King's birthday.

In his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. King shared his vision of a land where people of every religion, race, and creed could realize the American dream of freedom and opportunity. In the words of his wife, Coretta Scott King, we honor Dr. King's dream of "a vibrant, multiracial nation that has a place at the table for children of every race and room at the inn for every needy child." On Martin Luther King Day, we take this opportunity to reflect on the dream of an inclusive society in which all people are truly created equal.

On this day and all year long, Americans share in Dr. King's extraordinary commitment to improving the lives of

others. We remember his dream and take an active role in making it a reality. Throughout our Nation, people help those in need: they feed the hungry, house the poor, heal the sick, and offer a guiding hand to at-risk youth.

This week, as we mark the national celebration of Dr. King's birthday, let us not merely reflect on his work, let us live his legacy. On this Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, I ask you to join me in vowing to make Dr. King's dream a reality. Let us come together to take positive—yes, affirmative—action to give every American a real shot at the dream.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, yesterday, we celebrated Martin Luther King Day. For many of us, this day was a time to reflect on the progress we have made in protecting civil rights and the work that remains. Dr. King once said:

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

No matter how far our Nation has come, we must never rest contented with the mistaken notion that we have done enough to protect our fellow citizens.

In 1998, a young man named Matthew Shepard was brutally beaten and left for dead simply because he was gay. He lived for 6 days in the hospital, just long enough for his family to gather and say goodbye. Matthew's story, and the heinous dragging murder of James Byrd 6 months earlier, brought hate crimes to the forefront of the national discourse. It taught us a profound lesson about the hatred that still lives in some of our citizens.

Hate crimes are violent acts intended by their perpetrators to send a message of animus and intimidation towards those whose religion, race, or sexual orientation might differ from their own. They are a violation of everything our country stands for. As Attorney General Ashcroft has said:

Criminal acts of hate run counter to what is best in America—our belief in equality and freedom.

Sadly, the number of reported hate crimes continues to grow at an alarming rate. The FBI catalogued over 9,700 hate crimes in 2001. That is an average of 26 hate crimes a day. At that pace, in the last 5 years, more than 47,000 hate crimes have been committed.

The current hate crimes law was enacted after the assassination of Dr. King, and it is woefully outdated. It does not apply to hate crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability. Even in cases of crimes based on race, religion, or ethnic background, the law only protects victims who were attacked when engaged in "federally protected activities" such as jury service, interstate travel, or voting.

It is time to update this law, and I believe we have finally developed compromise legislation that can pass Congress. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, LLEEA, is a bipartisan bill that will provide support to local authorities investigating and prosecuting hate violence.

LLEEA requires the Attorney General to appoint a Federal prosecutor to promote cooperation between Federal and local law enforcement. In addition, the bill recognizes that not all violence constitutes a hate crime, and provides that only those motivated by bias, with the intent to terrorize the victim, may be prosecuted as hate crimes.

LLEEA has been endorsed by more than 175 law enforcement, civil rights, and religious organizations, including attorneys general for 22 States, the National Sheriffs' Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Nobody should live in fear because of who they are. Congress cannot continue to sit silently by while hatred spreads. And as Americans, it is time for us to send a message that we are prepared to confront this national plague and take another step closer to making Dr. King's dream a reality.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, yesterday we celebrated the life and legacy of a great man, a bold leader who inspired courage, unity and compassion. He changed the path of America's conscience, and he left his mark on Arkansas in so many ways. Dr. King time and time again came to the aid of Arkansans and supported others who were making significant sacrifices for civil rights.

In May of 1958, Dr. King stood in the audience at Central High School to witness the graduation ceremony of Ernest Green from Little Rock Central High. Ernest was the first of the nine black teenagers who integrated Central High School in 1957. Ernest, along with Elizabeth Eckford, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Minnijean Brown Trickey, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, Thelma Mothershed Wair and Melba Pattillo Beals shaped history by valiantly attending a previously all-white school.

Of her experience, Melba Pattillo Beals recalls:

I had to become a warrior. I had to learn not how to dress the best but how to get from that door to the end of the hall without dying.

These students' selfless act of courage changed history for all Americans in a tale that continues to have immediacy today.

As a student of Central High, I can tell you the impact of the Little Rock Nine is felt in the halls and in the hearts of its student body and teachers today.

Central High was designated as a unit of the national park system in 1998. In 2002, over 24,000 people visited the historic site with estimates of a potential 60,000 visitors by 2007. Incidentally, 2007 will be the 50th anniversary of the 1957-1958 Little Rock desegregation crises.

Dr. King was a man of eloquent and powerful words, and he exemplified his principles of love, tolerance, reconciliation and equality. As we all know, he sacrificed his life to usher in oppor-

tunity and freedom for all individuals. I remind my colleagues that we must do more than quote the empowering words of Dr. King. We must do more walking and less talking. As we honor Dr. King, I must approach a subject that has been so heavy on my mind.

I am disappointed to learn that the \$267,000 that I requested for planning the National Park Service's Little Rock Central High School Visitors Center was not funded in the Interior Appropriations bill, as I and other members of the Arkansas congressional delegation had hoped it would be.

The conference report notes that Central High was authorized in 1998 and that the general management plan was completed in 2002 and recommended a visitor facility. But then it goes on to say generally that this project is not a construction priority.

I am putting my colleagues on notice that I am going to fight for funds for not only planning but building this visitors center in this year's budget, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting a proposal that will complete the Little Rock Central High Visitors Center in time for the 50th anniversary in 2007.

The Little Rock Nine brought us closer to realizing Dr. King's dream of "the promised land," but we are not there yet. The visitors center will remind us where we once were, but also how much farther we need to go if we are to truly open the doors of opportunity for all individuals. Join me in supporting a message that is as important today as it was in 1957. Join me in supporting Dr. King's teachings and the bravery of nine black children.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the distinguished life and career of my friend and former colleague, Senator Paul Simon.

Paul will forever be remembered for the great respect he earned during his 40 years of public service, thanks to his sharp intellect and tremendous leadership. These traits were as much a signature for him as his famous bow tie.

Paul's life is a testament to the fact that public service truly can be a noble calling. His service to his constituents was an inspiration. His office often handled more cases than any other Senate office. During his tenure he held over 600 town meetings in his home State of Illinois. Senator Simon's dedication to those he represented made him a role model to many, including myself. That is why I am proud to have campaigned for Senator Simon during his 1988 run for the Democratic nomination for the presidency.

Paul Simon was dedicated to education. He played a vital role in improving literacy and supporting adult education. His hard work on making student loans more affordable allowed many Americans the chance to go to

college. He was also committed to helping working Americans and, throughout his long career, he never lost touch with their concerns.

Senator Simon's dedication to public service and the education of others continued after his retirement when he founded the Southern Illinois University Public Policy Institute.

I was fortunate enough to serve with Senator Simon on both the Judiciary and Foreign Relations Committees. We worked together on many issues, but I will especially remember him for his commitment to campaign finance reform. His support during the early days of campaign finance reform was invaluable. I truly regret that he passed just 1 day before the Supreme Court's historic decision to uphold the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act.

During a time when many feel that political partisanship is on the rise, Paul Simon remains an example of decency and integrity. He was a mentor to me and so many others who were fortunate enough to have known and worked with him. He will be deeply missed. I will remain forever grateful for the work he did, for the example he set, and for his friendship, which I will always treasure.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I hereby submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under Section 308(b) and in aid of Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. This report meets the requirements for Senate scorekeeping of Section 5 of S. Con. Res. 32, the First Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for 1986.

This report shows the effects of congressional action on the 2004 budget through December 9, 2003. The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of the 2004 Concurrent Resolution on the Budget, H. Con. Res. 95, as adjusted.

The estimates show that current level spending is below the budget resolution by \$2.1 billion in budget authority and by \$7.2 billion in outlays in 2004. Current level for revenues is \$227 million below the budget resolution in 2004.

Since my last report, dated November 21, 2003, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that changed budget authority, outlays, or revenues for 2004: Fourth continuing resolution, 2004, P.L. 108-135; An act to authorize salary adjustments for justices and judges of the United States, P.L. 108-167; Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, P.L. 108-173; Flight 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, P.L. 108-176; Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act of 2003, P.L. 108-182; Veterans Benefits Act of 2003, P.L. 108-183; Fifth continuing resolution, 2004, P.L. 108-185;