

In 1966, Monroe organized a symposium on the education of Spanish speaking children. Prominent educators and elected officials from Western States came together, and a consensus emerged that bilingual education was a realistic approach to the needs of Spanish speaking students.

U.S. Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas credited Monroe for his decision to attend the symposium, which influenced him to sponsor the Bilingual Education Act of 1968.

Once the bill was introduced, Monroe Sweetland helped marshal support for it. He arranged witnesses for the hearings, and he persuaded the NEA to endorse it. Without his efforts, it would not have passed.

The Latino community in the United States has come a long way since 1968. But we are still fighting to provide better education opportunities for Latino students. As we continue to press onward, I hope we never forget the contributions of Monroe Sweetland and others who helped pass the Bilingual Education Act of 1968.

On a personal note, my long-time chief of staff Rey Martinez was nurtured in the ways of politics by Monroe. Rey would be the first to acknowledge Monroe's political acumen, and I would be the second. Oregon and our entire country are a better place because of this good man.

## HONORING OUR TROOPS

### DEATH OF SGT CORY R. MRACEK

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Cory R. Mracek, a fellow Nebraskan and sergeant in the United States Army. Sergeant Mracek was killed on January 27 when his patrol was attacked near Iskandariyah, Iraq. He was 26 years old. Sergeant Mracek served in the 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, based in Fort Bragg, NC.

A resident of Hay Springs, NE, Sergeant Mracek was a dedicated soldier who was committed to his family and country. Sergeant Mracek enlisted in the Army after graduating from Hay Springs High School in 1995. His mother, Pat, said her son was a good soldier who "was very proud of his country," and loved serving in the Armed Forces.

In addition to his mother, Sergeant Mracek is survived by his father, James, and sisters, Stacy and Heather. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of them at this difficult time.

Sergeant Mracek 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 Sgt. Cory Mracek.

## 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 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.

One such crime occurred in Fort Wayne, IN, on March 29, 2002. John Runner, a 34-year-old gay man with disabilities, was found severely beaten in his home. He had also suffered substantial burns caused by hot bacon grease. Part of his brain had to be removed during emergency surgery. Law enforcement agents allege that Runner's cousin and roommate, Maurice Ellis, found Runner in bed with another man and an argument ensued. Investigators say that Ellis proceeded to beat and torture Runner over a 12-hour period. Runner was unable to defend himself due to his disability.

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.

## THE FEDERAL BUDGET

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue that I have been known to have some thoughts on from time to time and that is our Nation's fiscal situation and this body's approach to its budget responsibilities.

First, I would like to congratulate my colleagues for passing the Omnibus Appropriations bill. In this bill, we funded all of the President's priority items requested in the fiscal year 2004 budget and still restricted discretionary spending to \$876 billion.

I recognize that many people were dissatisfied with this legislation. Some people believe Congress spends too little and last year my colleagues on the other side of the aisle offered amendments that would have added over \$87 billion to total spending in fiscal year 2004. Other people believe Congress spends too much and asked President Bush to veto the Omnibus Appropriations bill because it contains too much "pork". It seems that neither extreme was pleased by the fiscal result, which may be the best indication we did the right thing. I will not claim the fiscal year omnibus is perfect. Nevertheless, this bill represents the best possible compromise between true fiscal discipline and Congress' desire to spend.

Unfortunately, this is our eighth consecutive year of compromising fiscal discipline and the American people are beginning to wonder when we will ever get our act together. The last time dis-

cretionary outlays authorized by Congress were lower than spending requested by the President was in 1996. According to the Cato Institute, real discretionary spending increases in fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004 are three of the 10 largest annual increases in the last 40 years. Also, the Congressional Budget Office reports that if current appropriations maintain the same rate of growth we have given them since 1999, we will increase discretionary spending by \$2.7 trillion over 10 years and every penny of added spending will be reflected in the Federal deficit and debt.

Some people may take comfort in CBO's baseline projections that show the budget reaching surplus in 2013. Let me tell my colleagues these projections should not lull us into a false sense of complacency.

First, CBO itself explains the baseline projections must estimate the future paths of Federal revenues and spending under current laws and policies. The baseline is therefore not intended to be a prediction of future budgetary outcomes. Simply put, the CBO baseline projection assumes Congress will restrict the growth of spending to the rate of inflation, less than 3 percent a year and less than half its current rate of 7 percent. CBO also estimates that Congress will allow Federal revenues as a percentage of GDP to increase from 15.9 percent to 20.1 percent, almost a one-third increase.

Does anyone seriously believe Congress will restrict spending or increase taxes by the amounts required to meet the CBO projections? I wish I could say that I believed these projections but I outgrew fairy tales a long time ago.

Second, if we are honest with ourselves, many people just do not think deficits are important anymore. The commonly heard refrain from some of my colleagues is that Ronald Reagan proved deficits don't matter. Meanwhile, some people only seem to care about deficits when they get in the way of increased spending.

In 1995, the first year Republicans controlled Congress, spending grew by \$25 billion. In 2004, with Republicans still in control of Congress, spending will increase by \$224 billion. Essentially, the amount we increase spending each year has grown tenfold in just 9 years.

Well, I am here to tell you deficits are important. After 10 years as Mayor of Cleveland and 8 years as Governor of Ohio, I can tell you exactly why deficits are important. When a local or State government allows its finances to become dangerously unbalanced, creditors demand higher and higher premiums on municipal bonds until interest rates become unsustainable. Contractors withhold goods and services or demand strict payment terms as a condition of doing business. Taxes are often raised, which has a serious impact on businesses and families. Finally, government leaders are forced to make draconian cuts in public services.